MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 AUGUST 1984

Lebanon

Tripoli Clashes -- "Guarded calm" prevailed in Tripoli following "violent and severe clashes" that resulted in about 70 dead and 186 wounded, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Rashid Karami maintained constant contact with northern leaders in order to halt the fighting, but security violations continued.

Syrian Diplomacy -- Amal movement leader Minister Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt briefed Prime Minister Karami on their talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Beirut radio reported. The Damascus meeting was also joined by leaders of the Palestinian National Alliance, Radio Monte Carlo added. In remarks broadcast by the radio following the Damascus meeting, Junblatt disclosed that the talks centered on various political, security, and developmental issues, particularly the south.

Meanwhile, Syrian presidential envoy Major General Muhammad al-Khuli met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert, Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported. Al-Khuli, who was accompanied by Syrian Social Nationalist Party leader 'Islam al-Mahayri, discussed the consolidation and strengthening of existing ties.

Israel

'Ezer Weizman's Yahad Movement and Yiga'el Hurvitz's Ometz Movement have decided to join a coalition with the Alignment bloc led by Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres, Jerusalem television reported. The Likud bloc's chances of forming their own coalition have therefore "disappeared," the television concluded. Reacting to this development, the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisra'el, and other parties have "hinted" that they also will join an Alignment-led coalition, Jerusalem radio noted. The radio's English service disclosed that according to the Alignment-Yahad agreement, new elections will be held by December if other smaller parties do not join the new coalition after an emergency period. Meanwhile, Alignment-Likud negotiations for a unity government continued, Jerusalem television reported. While there has been "some progress," disagreements center on the establishment of new settlements and the future of existing ones. Negotiations with Jordan were also discussed by the two blocs, the television added.

Iran

Government forces captured important strategic areas used by the "Ba'thist mercenaries and the counterrevolutionaries" of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, according to a military dispatch cited by Tehran radio. In the operations, 20 members of the party were killed, including 4 "founder members," the radio added. The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio confirmed that government forces had launched "large-scale attacks" in Kordestan, and stated that hundreds of "defenseless" Kurds had been killed. Kurdish fighters inflicted "heavy casualties" on the government forces during the clashes, the radio added.

Pakistan-DRA

Afghan forces again shelled the Teri Mangal border area, killing three Afghan refugees and injuring five others, Karachi radio reported. The Foreign Ministry lodged a "strong protest" regarding the incident, the fifth attack in 7 days.

Red Sea

A high-level Egyptian military source cited by MENA stated that there are "suspicions" that the Libyan vessel Ghat had deposited mines in the Red Sea. The source added that the clearing operations will be extended to Sudanese waters and that Italian and Dutch minesweepers will join the Egyptian, U.S., French, British, and Soviet groups already in the Red Sea area. He affirmed that no mines have yet been discovered.

In a separate development, Saudi King Fahd officially opened the King Faysal Naval Base at Jidda during an inauguration ceremony reported by Riyadh radio.

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'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN ALGIERS 21 AUGUST

JN211745 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Algiers from Tunis this morning to patronize the graduation of 1,000 young male and female Palestinian cubs who received their training at the Tebessa camp in Algeria. It is worth noting that Abu 'Ammar left Jidda the night before last at the end of his 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. On his departure, 'Arafat told journalists that he acquainted King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz with the results of the Palestinian dialogue and the Aden agreement on holding a PNC session. He added that his talks with the Saudi monarch dealt with the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the Islamic committee's efforts on ending this war.

BAGHDAD PLO RADIO STRESSES NEED FOR PNC SESSION

JN211943 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The importance of holding the PNC on its fixed date next month according to the Palestinian Aden-Algiers agreement is emphasized daily. The importance of holding the PNC was noted in the Algiers statement issued the day before yesterday by the Palestinian dialogue committee. This statement reiterated the need to hold the PNC on its fixed date. In view of numerous foreign attempts to prevent the PNC convocation on either its scheduled date or on any other date, the holding of the PNC session on the fixed date emerges as a very important and persistent national need. These attempts, which seek to prevent the convocation and to foil all Palestinian efforts toward it, are part of the plan aimed at destroying the PLO, its revolutionary legitimacy, and its independent decisionmaking, particularly since the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. The convocation of the PNC on its fixed date will be a strong response and a hard blow to these attempts. This matter in particular, is a primary national duty which must be shouldered by all free-thinking Palestinian groups. It will, thus, be a beginning for pursuing and intensifying efforts to convene the PNC on its fixed date. The firm and principled aspect of the present Palestinian national struggle is to confront any external force, regardless of its identity or location, which tries to impose its will and political decisionmaking in the Palestinian arena. It is certainly obvious that the attempts to hamper the convocation of the PNC, besides what we have affirmed in this regard, fall within this premise.

Moreover, the national need to hold the PNC on its fixed date is important to restore and revive the legitimate Palestinian institutions and frameworks so they may continue their effective role of struggle at various levels and serve the Palestinian national liberation march. Undoubtedly, the adoption of a Palestinian decision drawing up the duties of the forthcoming phase of the Palestinian struggle and outlining the methods for confronting the U.S.-Israeli enemy's plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian national cause, will have great importance, a strong echo, and firm credibility and effectiveness, particularly since this decision will be made at the most important and largest Palestinian legitimate institution, the PNC. Certainly, the PLO's political trend to confront the forthcoming U.S.-Israeli plan must be made very clear when it is announced on the platform of this Palestinian legitimacy. This trend will certainly take an objective course that will assert a real and firm fact in the region's conflict -- namely, the difficult Palestinian number, which cannot be overlooked. The convocation of the PNC on its fixed date is a continuing national need. All Palestinian efforts must be concentrated and intensified to fulfill this need, which is our primary duty in this current phase.

AFP: OCEANIC ENERGY SUFFERED FUEL TANK EXPLOSION

NC221004 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] London, Aug 22 (AFP) -- The Liberian-registered tanker Oceanic Energy which was reported badly damaged by a mine in the Red Sea on August 5 was in fact the victim of an explosion of its own fuel tank, according to Lloyd's of London. The ship's captain had said the 87,200-tonne Oceanic Energy struck a mine in the Red Sea. But based on reports from a team of U.S. Navy divers assisting Egypt in the search for the explosives, Lloyd's today said damage to the ship was caused instead by a fuel tank explosion. Lloyd's previously said 17 ships had been damaged in the Red Sea blasts, while Egypt's count was 21.

KUWAIT

MONTE CARLO: OFFICIAL ON GULF WAR MEDIATION

JN211855 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 84

['Ali Hashim dispatch from Kuwait]

[Excerpt] A ranking Kuwaiti official has admitted that the mediation under way to halt the Iraqi-Iranian war have been suspended. This official, who holds a high position in the legislative branch, added that an Arab country, which has good relations with Iran, had sought to mediate with the Iranian officials who in turn rejected all mediation efforts and proposed the convocation of conference to be attended by officials from GCC countries without the participation of any Iraqi officials.

The Kuwaiti official told Radio Monte Carlo that when he participated in the Arab Parliamentary Union conference in Damascus he obtained information from prominent Syrian officials which indicated that the increasing number of mediation efforts to convince Iran to end the war have made the Iranian regime more intransigent. The Iranian regime also promised not to attack the GCC countries if they suspend their material and moral support for Iraq. Tehran insists on toppling the current Iraqi regime and sets as a condition for negotiating with a new Iraqi regime the toppling of the current regime. The Kuwaiti official said that this information has been communicated to Iraqi officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE SULTAN: SITUATION IN RED SEA 'NORMAL'

GF211444 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Aug 84 p 1

['Awad al-Qahtani dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, said that the sponsorship and the meeting of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, with members of the Saudi Royal Naval Forces, in their celebration tomorrow is a great occasion for all of us. In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ, His Royal Highness said that he will meet with media representatives to talk about this occasion, following the King's inauguration of the new installations of the King Faysal naval base in Jidda.

His royal highness affirmed that the situation in the Red Sea is normal and that the previous situation has ended. He said that there is no harm at all to the economic situation in the Kingdom, affirming that the Kingdom has taken all measures in our favor and that currently there is nothing unusual in the Red Sea. His royal highness said that the current situation in the Red Sea is normal and there will be no harm caused by any unusual incident and thank God, things are proceeding well.

All the studies regarding these incidents have been made and there is nothing which draws attention or causes concern because everything is very normal. His royal highness affirmed that there will be no obstacle regarding the arrival of pilgrims to the Kingdom because all possibilities and preparations have been undertaken for any emergency. His royal highness said that such incidents should not affect us and that they would vanish in time. He said that the pilgrimage proceedings will not be affected by what has taken place; an indication of this is the smooth arrival of pilgrims.

KING FAHD SPEAKS ON DEFENSE READINESS

LD212011 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today inaugurated the King Faysal Naval Base. The inauguration ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Nawwaf ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Prince Mamduh ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; a number of princes and ministers and senior military and civilian officials. His majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy defense and aviation minister, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh Region.

Following his majesty's arrival the shops sounded their sirens in salute. Children gave his majesty two bouquets of roses. His majesty then proceeded to the place prepared for him. The royal anthem was then played. The ceremony began with a Koran recitation. The commander of the Naval Forces, Staff Rear Admiral Talal Salim al-Mufdi, then made a speech in which he greeted his majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and expressed thanks on behalf of the personnel of the base to his majesty for inaugurating the King Faysal Naval Base following the completion of its establishments, installations and equipment.

The commander of the base, Staff Commander Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Ajlan, made a speech in which on behalf of the personnel of the base he welcomed his majesty the king and those accompanying him to share with them their happiness at the inauguration of their base.

His majesty the king then witnessed a naval tactical exercise, which included a drop of frogmen into the sea by parachute from a reconnaissance and search-and-destroy aircraft. His majesty then witnessed a practical experiment for the occupation of an island and hoisting the Kingdom's flag on it. He also listened to a detailed explanation of the operation on a model while the operation was being carried out. His majesty then went to the model of the base and hoisted over it the standard of the base and unvieled it. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz then made the following speech:

[Begin recording] No doubt a day such as today will be remembered in the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to the Kingdom's Naval Forces. We all know that many years ago the idea was formulated concerning the establishment of the Navy. We who are living in such an atmosphere may realize the effort which was made. Anyone who visits the naval bases could believe that they were established some 50 years ago. I can say that they were established during the past 10 years. They are the nucleus of something bigger and more comprehensive regarding the naval border of Saudi Arabia. It is known that the naval frontiers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia extend more than 1,000 kms into the Red Sea, and in the Gulf to several hundred kilometers.

It is known that the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is always based on nonaggression against others. But at the same time it does not permit the violation of its territory -- at sea, on land or in the air. When thought was given to the establishment of the Saudi Navy, this was based on the fact that a country such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, having an important and strategic position, should inevitably have naval, land and air forces. Thanks to God, and praise be to him, that we see from time to time these establishments of the three branches of the Armed Forces at the highest of levels, particularly what has been prepared by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the National Guard, which in all circumstances shares with the other forces in the defense of the homeland. When we saw on many occasions the organization and arrangements which have been prepared for the divisions of the National Guard, we and all citizens were very pleased with the fact that the officials responsible for this great development are led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. We were also pleased with the preparations made with regard to the security forces, which in actual fact shoulder the responsibility of protecting the citizens day and night. Therefore there are forces, thanks to God, which are in good shape.

At the same time, anyone who wants to harm the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should realize that there is sufficient preparation to check any aggression. The basic principle in actual fact is adherence of this country -- government and people -- to the fundamentals which made our country what it is today -- the Islamic foundation with which God has honored this country and the entire world for the good and prosperity of mankind. I hope, God willing, to see all our military forces develop for the better. I was most pleased to see all officers in all these forces which I have mentioned -- supervisors, trainers, commanders and soldiers -- are from among the sons of this homeland. This is the biggest step that we could possibly have taken. I wish our forces success in all spheres. Their government will not withhold anything that will help to move these forces forward, God willing. [end recording]

After the royal anthem was played, his majesty the king had lunch. The officers of the base greeted his majesty, after which he left the base.

DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ARMED FORCES

LD212145 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Interview granted to journalists by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, on the occasion of the inauguration of the King Faysal Naval Base -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] At these blessed moments in which the Saudi Armed Forces open a new page in the strengthening of one of its effective arms -- the naval sector -- what would his royal highness like to say in this connection?

[Answer] First we would like to thank God for having enabled officials led by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces to establish these Saudi Naval Forces. These bases -- the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Base in Jubayl and the King Faysal Base in the Western Region -- have been built on Islam and for peace. They are fortresses for peace [words indistinct]. They are part of the foundation laid down for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and for the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia so that the latter can live securely and enjoy the prosperity of life which has been bestowed on us by almighty God. They constitute a support for every Arab.

[Question] Your Highness' in actual fact your interest does not stop at providing these forces with material assistance. What about the trained Saudi individual in this sphere?

[Answer] In actual fact, as you know, human elements and cadres are more important than the equipment. The first thing we did was to establish vocational institutes for each force and military sector. We then began to establish the colleges. At this level we see our Saudi youth who are armed with their faith and modern technology. In the past we sent thousands of youths outside the Kingdom. They returned to their country to become the instructors for their colleagues and sons. Today there is no young Saudi soldier abroad except for those engaged in higher specialized studies and those on advanced weapons.

[Question] It is known that modern military technology depends on data processing. What is the extent of your use of this aspect in the development of the Armed Forces?

[Answer] Anyone who follows the news of the Armed Forces knows that part of each arms deal concerns modern technology, which is important for manufacturing and developing weapons.

[Question] What can you tell us about the project for the development of the Naval Forces?

[Answer] This has been previously mentioned in lengthy statements, but it has begun to reap fruits now; the first of this fruit is the vessel [name indistinct] which you saw today. It is one of the biggest supply ships in the Armed Forces.

[Question] What is the next step regarding the missile project?

[Answer] The use of the missiles. [laughs]

[Question] In the submarines?

[Answer] These are matters you understand that I cannot divulge until you see them for yourselves.

[Question] Observers who are following the development of the Iraq-Iran war note that there is a change in the type of weapons in use, which made states in the region change their own weapons. We read that the Kingdom has purchased U.S. Stinger missiles.

[Answer] The use of weapons is a matter imposed by the public interest, but rest assured that it is not [words indistinct]. Therefore we pray to God almighty that the Gulf war, now taking place between the two sister countries -- Iraq and Iran -- will end peacefully.

[Question] God willing. Thank you, Your Highness.

'MILITARY SOURCE' ON RED SEA EXPLOSIONS

NC211143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA) -- A high-level Egyptian military source said the Egyptian Navy is participating fully with all types of ships in the minesweeping operations and in safeguarding the Red Sea, in addition to safeguarding the ships that carry pilgrims, in accordance with the president's instructions. He said all the activities and coordination among participants in the survey and clearing operations are taking place under the full control of the Egyptian Naval Forces and the Egyptian Military Command. The source said that the clearing operations will be extended to include the Sudan's territorial waters, and that the Netherlands has offered to participate in these operations. He added that no mines have been discovered so far, but that there are five suspicious objects south of Suez. He added that there are suspicions, which are almost certain, that the Libyan ship Ghat dropped the mines in the Red Sea.

In a statement made today, the Egyptian military source reviewed the explosions that have occurred in the Red Sea. He said that on 29 June, Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Rafsanjani clearly stated that if the tanker war continued in the Gulf, he would move the war against the oil countries' interests into the Red Sea. On 9 July, the first explosion occurred south of Suez. Egyptian Naval Forces immediately moved in and surveyed the area, but found no traces of mines. Certain security measures were taken.

From 26 to 28 July, major explosions occurred in the Gulf of Suez and in the southern part of the Red Sea. The explosions in the Gulf of Suez occurred in the Abu ad-Duj area, 20 nautical miles south of Suez, and in the Ra's Shuqayr area. The explosions in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea were similar. They caused little damage to the ships, and no ship was disabled from continuing its journey. The source said that when a first [as received] explosion occurred on 27 July, the Egyptian Navy, in cooperation with other Armed Forces personnel, played its full role in carrying out clearing operations, in coordination with the Suez Canal authority and the pertinent government departments. In view of the vast area where the explosions occurred, however, and because the Egyptian Navy could not carry out the survey and clearing operations in a short period of time, Egypt sought help from other states, which have greater capabilities and more advanced equipment for hunting, discovering, and defusing mines.

The source said these states expressed a desire to participate in the clearing operations because the Red Sea is important to international navigation and not only to Egypt. U.S. and British teams have so far participated in the clearing operations. Italian and French minesweepers are now on their way to the area. Although the French minesweepers have not yet arrived, their crew commanders are presently in Egypt to do preliminary work and coordinate with the Egyptian Command to pave the way for the French minesweepers to start their work. The source added that the Netherlands has offered to participate in the survey and clearing operations and that coordination is underway to involve it in these operations. The military source pointed out that the clearing operations will extend to the Sudan's territorial waters. No specified time has been set to end the surveying and clearing operations, he said. But, every international unit that ends clearing its specified water zone will leave Egypt at once.

The military source described the mines which were dropped into the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez as sophisticated. He added that the Egyptian Navy and its command are in full control of the activities carried out by the international units participating, and that the Egyptian Navy is coordinating these activities. An advanced naval command center was set up at the Suez Naval Base to direct the operations, he said, and no minesweeper can sail without the prior approval of this command. The minesweepers are reporting their daily activities to this command.

The military source said our purpose is to obtain an unexploded mine. He commented on the inspection of the ships passing through the Suez Canal, saying that this is carried out by the Suez Canal authorities, in accordance with international law. North and south of the Suez Canal, inspection is carried out by the Navy, which, he said, intercepts and inspects the ships, and deals with those ships that refuse to be inspected, in accordance with international law. The military source said that so far no definitive mines have been found. Five possible cases have been pinpointed in the south of the Gulf of Suez. Special equipment will be taken there today and tomorrow to identify the objects involved. The military source said the Egyptian Navy has surveyed and cleared a certain water zone, on a par with any other participating force.

The source added that the mines planted in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez could not have been dropped from an ordinary ship. They must be dropped by a RO/RO [roll on/roll off] ship with a hole at the bottom to release the mines. A record of RO/RO ships passing through the area on these dates was compiled, resulting in information that will not be disclosed at the moment, he said. There are suspicions the Libyan ship Ghat planted those mines and that experts in laying mines were on board. There are also strong indications that the mines are Italian-made, he said.

The military source stressed that full coordination is going on with the Sudan in this respect. He added that Egypt is not responsible for the cost of the surveying and clearing activities. The most critical areas have been almost fully surveyed, he said. The source pointed out that the United States is presently operating near the port of Jidda, while the Soviet Union is clearing the area in the southern part of the Red Sea.

Concluding his statement, the military source denied that Ra's Banas has been used in the clearing and search operations because Egypt does not want Ra's Banas to be involved in these operations.

Limits of Aid Noted

PM220913 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 21 Aug 84 p 2

[Interview with Muhammad Ahmad 'Abdullah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, by Piero Benetazzo in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Cairo -- "What if Italy had decided not to send its ships? Well... That would not have harmed our excellent relations with your country in the least." In his large office in the parliament building -- with a huge photograph of Mubarak on the wall, but a small one of As-Sadat too, on his desk -- Chairman of the Egyptian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Muhammad Ahmad 'Abdullah seemed not in the least perturbed by the repercussions of the controversies in Italy or by a decisionmaking process that here seemed slow and somewhat tortuous (at least compared to the speed of those of the other three Western countries).

"Italy," 'Abdallah said, "is entitled to consider and abide by its national interests. In any case we want certain things to be quite clear -- we asked not for a military presence but merely for a technical and entirely temporary presence. The Italians -- like the others -- are coming only to lend us their technology. They are definitely not coming to perform a policing role. The defense of the canal is our responsibility alone, and we are not delegating it to anyone else. So this is a technical mission which we hope will be concluded as soon as possible."

[Benetazzo] But why did you decide to turn to Italy?

['Abdallah] Because of its technology, but also and above all because Italy is a neighboring country and has always been a friendly country which shares our desire to make the Mediterranean and therefore the Red Sea a sea of peace. The viewpoint from which we proceeded was that of seeking the aid of friendly countries -- but countries that had already displayed their constant and specific commitment to peace. For this reason too I thought of Italy. Furthermore you have excellent relations and interests with other countries of the area, such as Ethiopia and Somalia. What is happening concerns you directly, both as regards geographical location and as regards the dictate of your interests.

[Benetazzo] But do you perhaps also want our contribution and mediation for the conference of littoral countries?

['Abdallah] No, definitely not. That is our concern.

Authority Affirms Canal Clear

NC211453 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] The Suez Canal Authority Chairman Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil has affirmed that the countries of the world have announced their confidence that the Suez Canal is clear of mines. He said that he received two cables: The first from the chairman of the YAR Port Authority asserting that navigation in the YAR ports is proceeding normally and that the crews of ships passing through the Canal said that they did not face any dangers on the way. The second cable, which came from the Federation of Sea Workers and Ship Owners in Hong Kong, affirms that none of the Hong Kong ships avoided sailing through the Suez Canal or the Red Sea. The cable also pointed to the federation's confidence that the canal is clear of mines or any other obstacles.

It is worth noting that the Lloyd's International Insurance Company refused to consider the Suez Canal and the Red Sea as danger zones. This affirms world confidence that the canal is clear.

U.S. Official on Presence

GF211600 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (WAKH) -- In a statement to WAKH, an official source at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo affirmed that all U.S. naval units currently in the Gulf of Suez are for sweeping mines. They are under the supervision of the Egyptian military command in coordination with other French, British, and Italian naval units. The source utterly denied rumors that the U.S. naval units will remain in the region after fulfilling their mission. He said: We came here at an official Egyptian request, and our stay is to assure that the region is clear of mines.

He added that any evidence found by the U.S. naval units will be handed immediately to the Egyptian command which has the right to act on the evidence to explain the identity of those behind the events. He said: We cannot accuse any international party for this mining without material evidence which has been unavailable to date.

COMMUNIQUE NO 1,564 ON 20-21 AUG OPERATIONS

JN211547 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA) -- Iraqi forward units have inflicted losses on the Iranian troop concentrations in the operational sector east of Basra and have set enemy positions on fire.

Communique No 1,564 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here this evening said that the Iraqi forces captured one Iranian soldier in the northern sector of the battlefield and killed or wounded many others. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,564 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our daring Armed Forces units continue their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the rancorous and evil Iranian regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions and one troop concentration in the northern sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing or wounding many, and destroying one infantry position and one observation post. In another area of the same sector, one of our valiant combat patrols captured one enemy soldier and evacuated him to the rear.

2. Our forward units shelled enemy troop concentrations and troop movements in the operational sector east of Basra and pounded them with all types of weapons, destroying several enemy infantry positions and weapon emplacements, and setting fire to other enemy positions and military hardware.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 August 1984

FOREIGN MINISTER 'AZIZ DISCUSSES GULF WAR

PM211417 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Aug 84 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Sana' as-Sa'id in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Can it be said that the Iraq-Iran conflict, which is about to complete its fourth year, has tilted in favor of Iraq? Does Iraq intend to continue pressuring Iran to end the war?

Answer: We believe that, by all objective standards, the strategic conflict between Iraq and Iran has ended in Iraq's favor, because the Iranian expansionist program has failed as a result of Iraq's military steadfastness and ability to mobilize its manpower and economic resources, to utilize its political leverage against that Iranian expansionist program. Iran now is facing failure and frustration regarding that program.

Question: Does Iraq intend to pressure Iran in the hope of ending the war?

Answer: We certainly intend to continue to pressure Iran as long as it rejects peace. By saying that the strategic conflict has ended in Iraq's favor, I do not mean that the state of war has ended. Iran is still continuing the war against us and persisting in engaging and threatening Iraq; it continues to prevent Iraq from using its southern ports. This situation, in the context of deciding the strategic conflict, requires Iraq to continue pressuring Iran so that we come to a situation in which Iran accepts a just peace between itself and Iraq and normal and equal relations with the Arab countries in the Gulf region.

Question: Since you are talking about deciding the situation, why does Iraq not do what it has often threatened to do, namely bomb Khark Island, since that step is bound to decide matters -- or are you afraid of the consequences of such action?

Answer: We are not afraid of any consequences, but war is not a dramatic game. So we must deal with matters of war with reason and correct political planning. We are trying now to make Iran feel that continuing the war will have negative effects on it, that it will definitely lose a war of attrition. We believe that the means we are now resorting to are sufficient as long as we are at the present stage of the plan. But if the present means fail to bring Iran to this conclusion, then we must develop our means. This includes escalating the threat to Khark Island and to Iranian economic installations.

Question: The calm that prevailed in the tanker war throughout last month seemed to be the result of Arab pressure trying to enable the good offices efforts to succeed. However, the attack on tankers was resumed at the beginning of this month. This seemed to indicate that you lost hope of reaching a peaceful settlement. Is that true?

Answer: In fact Iraq never stopped its operations in the Arab Gulf in the first place. The halting of operations for a month or a number of weeks could have been due to objective factors in the field and not to political causes. There has been no Arab pressure on Iraq.

Question: How do you evaluate the Egyptian initiative, how far is it being relied on as a basis for a peaceful settlement, and what reservations do you have regarding it?

Answer: We regard the Egyptian initiative as positive, because we need to use Egypt's Arab and international weight and its weight within the Nonaligned Movement with the aim of exerting pressure for peace. This is what is important about the Egyptian initiative. It is not the details that matter in this initiative, regarding which we might have certain reservations. What matters is that Egypt should move and exert pressure. It should tell the nonaligned countries that they must not stand idly by and let the war continue. Egypty has made extremely good efforts in this regard through its emissaries acting on behalf of President Mubarak and through President Mubarak's recent visit to Yugoslavia. We are quite satisfied with the Egyptian initiative.

As to whether the initiative could achieve peace, this is something that we cannot determine because peace depends on both sides, Iraq and Iran. With regard to Iraq, I would say that we desire peace whether through the Egyptian initiative or any other serious initiative. But, if Iran rejects peace, it means that neither the Egyptian nor any other initiative can possibly achieve this objective.

Question: Early this month Kuwait tried to contact Syria so that the latter would play a mediation role in the Gulf war. Would you rely on Syria's efforts in this regard to end the war?

Answer: Certainly not. Syria is Iran's ally, and we have no doubt about that. I do not think that Syria will change this attitude, not in the foreseeable future at least. So we do not think that Syria can play a positive role, that is, adopt an even-handed position between the Iraqi and the Iranian stands and thus play a mediator's role in the current war.

Question: Why, given that your ties with it have become closer, does the Soviet Union not intervene to mend the situation between you and Syria?

Answer: To be fair, in July last year the Soviet Union tried to mediate between us and Syria. It arranged a meeting in Moscow between the Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and myself. But Syria refused to establish normal relations with Iraq or to resolve the problems with us. Syria rejected and continued to reject the mediation.

Question: What is your reaction to the attitude of certain Arab Gulf rulers who act in their policies as if the war did not exist? What do you say to the claim that a state like the UAE cannot take diplomatic risks for the sake of your interests, considering that it has economic ties with Iran?

Answer: In fact I cannot talk about relations between the UAE and Iran. But there is a certain state within the UAE that deals with Iran in a manner contrary to all national norms. We know what they are doing and we know the volume of their trade with Iran. I would say that what they are doing is a disgraceful action that we and all the Arab nation deplore.

Question: A former Iranian defense minister has called for convening an international Islamic conference on neutral territory to be attended by Shi'ite and Sunni ulemas, with a view to taking negotiations out of the politicians' hands.

Answer: We have taken note of this matter and we are still studying its details. But we must first ascertain that the advocate of this idea is an impartial party. The fact that he is opposed to the present regime in Iran is not necessarily a guarantee of his impartiality. Iraq and the other parties to be invited to the conference, should it be convened, must ascertain before taking part the impartiality of the party calling for the conference and the ultimate objectives of such a conference.

Question: Certain reports affirm that you are confident that the long-awaited Iranian offensive will not take place and have, therefore, withdrawn 20,000 troops from the southern front.

Answer: We have not withdrawn a single soldier from the front. On the contrary, we are carrying out further mobilization and military consolidation. We have absolutely not ruled out that the Iranian offensive will take place. Rather, we are preparing ourselves militarily as if the offensive were actually taking place.

Question: Why in your view did Iran not launch its long-awaited land offensive, and does this suggest that the more moderate voices in Iran have now begun to win the battle?

Answer: No. The more realistic explanation is that the Iranian Government, with all its factions and trends, fully realizes that if the offensive takes place it will be a major adventure with serious consequences, bearing in mind that the offensive launched last February was a crushing military defeat for Iran. This is particularly true because the situation at the front for Iraq is now much better than it was before, so that by no yardstick is it better for Iran. With time the equation, from a military standpoint, is turning in favor of Iraq. Therefore they realize that if they attack they will suffer heavy losses. This will have serious negative effects on their internal situation, and that is why Iran has not yet launched its expected offensive. If it does not launch the offensive in the near future, it will be for this and no other reason.

Question: This means that you do not feel that there has yet been a positive change in the Iranian leadership's attitude that could lead to change in overall positions?

Answer: What is certain so far is that Iran is wallowing in disturbances and unrest, but nobody can predict how things will go there. There is anxiety over the future of the war and how will things end. What will be the future of the regime while the war continues, and what are the regime's options? There is a controversy inside Iran over these vital and complex things, the outcome of which I cannot predict.

Question: What is the task being carried out by about 6,000 Soviets and 1,000 French in Iraq?

Answer: First of all I cannot confirm these figures, but I would say that we have large-scale military ties with the Soviet Union. It is a known fact that when a state purchases new weapons it needs the help of a number of experts to train its own military personnel on these weapons. Those experts stay in the country until their mission is completed. They have no other mission.

Question: Does this apply to the French as well?

Answer: Yes, it applies to the French as well, because we have considerable military ties with France.

Question: It has been said that some arms deals were concluded with Iran with U.S. blessing, especially the deals with Korea and Israel. Has this been confirmed?

Answer: Until a year ago at least we believed that the United States did not in the least object to such deals. But now it says that it objects and does not encourage arms exports to Iran. We must give sufficient time for such intentions to be tested.

DAMAGED JETTIES REDUCE IRAN'S OIL EXPORTS

JN211228 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Vienna, 21 Aug (INA) -- Informed oil sources revealed here today that the recent reduction in Iranian oil exports is caused by the grave damage to the oil loading jetties on Khark Island and in the Fereydun oilfields, south of Khark.

In a statement to the INA correspondent today, the sources said that the damage to two oil loading jetties that receive supertankers on Khark Island and the Iraqi fighter planes' destruction of the oil loading jetty at Fereydun, 35 miles south of Khark, early this month forced Iran to reduce its oil exports.

The sources pointed out that Iran's official declaration that it is going to halve its oil exports -- that is, less than 1 million barrels per day -- for 2 weeks, reveals the extent of the destruction wrought in its oil installations by the Iraqi bombing. The sources said that repair work at these installations will take several weeks to complete and will not be done within 2 weeks, as Iran says.

The sources further said that the effect of this destruction is enhanced by the continuing Iraqi military blockade on Iranian ports. This could lead to further reductions in Iranian oil exports, and consequently to a reduction in Iranian oil revenues, which finance war with Iraq.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ROMANIA CELEBRATION

JN211605 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA) -- Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, left for Bucharest today at the head of an official delegation to attend Romania's national day celebrations.

Hasan 'Ali and his accompanying delegation will also hold talks with officials there on economic and trade issues of mutual interest.

BIRRI, JUNBLATT MEET WITH KHADDAM IN DAMASCUS

JN211330 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Intensive Syrian-Lebanese contacts on the highest level continued this morning. Following the positive talks which President al-Asad's envoy Muhammad al-Khuli held with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt arrived in Damascus today. They met at 1000 today with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of Marwan Hamadah from the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] command and Muhammad Baydun of the Amal command. After about 2 hours and 15 minutes, the conferees were joined by the leaders of the Palestinian National Alliance: Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Dr Samir Ghawshah, Talal Naji, Gauri [Samih Abu Kuwayk], and Fadl Shururu.

A prominent source has affirmed that the Syrian efforts are aimed at reaching decisions on the outstanding security and political issues, and that the results of these efforts will be positive -- whether during the [Lebanese] Cabinet session tomorrow or during the forthcoming contacts -- so that any loopholes and obstacles can be dealt with, especially since all parties concerned have agreed to begin dealing with the political situation.

It has been learned that the mountain plan has been generally outlined, that it will be carried out in stages, and that it will be accompanied by political steps. It has been learned that the talks yesterday and today dealt with the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. It has also been learned that Syria, which vehemently supports the Lebanese government of national unity under Karami, wants a rapid end to the clashes which took place between the Lebanese Army and the PSP militias in order to strengthen security in the capital itself.

The expanded meeting ended after 3 hours and 15 minutes. Dr Samir Ghawshah said: We met with Khaddam, Junblatt, and Birri, and we discussed issues concerned with promoting the struggle of the Lebanese nationalist forces and bolstering the Syrian-Lebanese nationalist-Palestinian solidarity with the aim of solving many day-to-day Palestinian problems in Lebanon.

Qadri said: We discussed the Beirut security plan. We did not discuss the mountain security plan.

In a statement to our radio, Walid Junblatt said: [Begin Junblatt recording] Our talks dealt with the various political, security, and developmental issues, particularly the south. I believe that if a satisfactory solution is to be reached, the roots of the issues should be dealt with and what was agreed on in Lausanne should be implemented. This can be done by listing the demands and giving the south serious and proper attention. The situation in southern Lebanon is connected with earnest, grass roots political reform. We cannot separate issues in the Lebanese arena. [end recording]

Answering a question, Junblatt denied that there are any differences between him and Nabih Birri.

It has been learned that another round of talks will be held this evening before the two Lebanese ministers return to the Lebanese capital.

Talks End

JN211754 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, and Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal movement. An official Syrian source said that the talks dealt with the stages that have been achieved along the road to implementing the working plan of the Lebanese national unity government. The source added that agreement was reached on the need to speed up work to entrench the security march which has begun in Lebanon.

Junblatt and Birri left Damascus for Beirut this afternoon.

Karami Briefed on Talks

NC211723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami received Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, who briefed him on the atmosphere of their meetings with [Syrian vice president] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the Syrian capital.

Junblatt, Birri Comments

NC220710 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] After meeting with Minister Birri and Prime Minister Rashid Karami yesterday, Minister Junblatt said: We went to Damascus and explained some points. He added: It appears the so-called legitimacy in B'abda is trying to create lies regarding the national position. Minister Junblatt added: There is no need for such ruses because we know each other in Lebanon. We also knew the Damascus road by heart before they themselves knew it.

Birri said: We briefed Prime Minister Karami on the atmosphere in which the Damascus talks took place -- no more and no less.

In addition to Junblatt's statement, a Junblatt source has distributed a statement attacking the government and the regime, and rejecting the Lebanese Army's penetration of the mountain. The Junblatt source also said: This legitimacy -- the legitimacy of the government, the regime, and the obsolete chamber of deputies -- does not represent real legitimacy. The real legitimacy is that of the people.

AL-KHULI, AL-MAHAYRI MEET FRANJIYAH, COMMENT

NC220834 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah yesterday received Major General Muhammad al-Khuli, the personal envoy of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who was accompanied by 'Isam al-Mahayri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] and [Former SSNP Leader] In 'am Ra'd. He reviewed with them the general Lebanese situation. The meeting was also attended by Robert Franjiyah.

After the meeting, Maj Gen al-Khuli said: I conveyed to former President Franjiyah an invitation from President al-Asad to visit Damascus. The visit will take place at the beginning of next month, God willing.

Regarding the possibility of a Lebanese-Syrian summit, Maj Gen al-Khuli said this is likely, but no date has yet been set.

Replying to a question about the outcome of the meeting with Franjiyah, 'Isam al-Mahayri said: We came to this house, which is a great national symbol. We appraise our meeting with President Franjiyah on the basis that he remains a great national leader with whom we agree on general principles. It is enough that we agree with him on a decisive and clear stand against the plot to divide Lebanon, and on a clear and decisive stand regarding the true relations between Lebanon and Syria. It is enough that we agree on these common denominators so our course with President Franjiyah will be a smooth and open one.

All problems and matters which were raised are secondary. Our willpower is capable of surmounting those matters and of surmounting and containing similar problems, thanks to our sincere and clear determination and thanks to President Franjiyah's great ability to deal with all matters without complication.

Replying to a question on whether today's meeting with President Franjiyah can be termed as a reconciliatory and frank meeting, 'Isam al-Mahayri said: It was more than a reconciliatory and frank meeting. It was a meeting to consolidate relations and to proceed with them toward something better and stronger. The recent years have witnessed excellent and close relations with President Franjiyah. We regard this meeting as consolidating our existing ties and developing them toward what is stronger and firmer.

Regarding future relations between the SSNP and President Franjiyah, Al-Mahayri said: I am confident these will be relations based on the respect we have for President Franjiyah and on the sincere desire to remain united in confronting whatever dangers and problems face the Lebanese situation.

Asked how he views President Franjiyah's national and pan-Arab stands in light of present developments in the country, Al-Mahayri said: President Franjiyah constitutes a distinguished and prominent national leadership in Lebanon. President Franjiyah plays an important and basic role in directing the political life and the political situation in Lebanon, and in checking the dangers surrounding the Lebanese situation.

Al-Mahayri added: President Franjiyah plays a prominent and basic role. We appraise his great national role and with much pride evaluate our relations with President Franjiyah's great national role.

Asked whether the Damascus agreement, which ended the Al-Kurah incidents, and the party and the Al-Maradah leadership statements had filled certain gaps, Al-Mahayri said: Yes, an agreement has been reached that the party responsible for security, namely the Syrian Army, will deal with and fill all these gaps.

SHAM'UN MEETS AL-JUMAYYIL, MAKES STATEMENT

NC211216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Within the framework of contacts held by President Amin al-Jumayyil with political leaders in Lebanon to consolidate the security and accord process, the president received former President Camille Sham'un at 1000 today. The talks dealt with the stages in Syrian-Lebanese cooperation for the salvation of Lebanon. The question of the south, the Israeli withdrawal, and the security plan for the mountain were topics of discussion at the 90-minute meeting.

Sham'un made the following statement after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Sham'un] Following my recent tour, I met with the president to discuss various subjects, particularly security and international political subjects. The president, naturally, is assured of relations with Syria and its readiness to help Lebanon. This is good and assuring because no one can deny Syria's influence in various fields. If there is goodwill, surely they can be useful in the Lebanese situation. We also discussed the Ash-Shuf, the situation in the south, and how we can surmount the situation in the Ash-Shuf and ensure Israeli withdrawal. Local and administrative matters were not a topic during the talks.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you expect something practical to result from tomorrow's Cabinet session in relation to the security plan in the mountain or in respect to submitting a complaint against Israeli practices in the south?

[Sham'un] Something may emerge regarding security arrangements in the mountain. The talks will also deal with relations with Syria and the Syrian Government's readiness to help with the situation in Lebanon. The talks will also deal with normal matters, particularly those relating to security. [end recording]

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS PHALANGE PARTY'S KARAMI

LD211552 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Aug (KUNA) -- In an interview published here today, the vice president of the Lebanese Phalange Party, Dr Elie Karami, rejected the idea that the Lebanese state should sponsor the armed resistance against the Israeli presence in the Lebanese south.

In an interiew with AL-ANBA' he said: "If the Lebanese state is to sponsor the armed resistance in the south, this might be interpreted as a declaration of war against Israel, hence it will expose the southern and other regions to Israeli military reactions, which we can do without."

In reply to a question about how to liberate the Lebanese south, Dr Karami, whom the chairman of Phalange Party, Pierre al-Jumayyil, nominated to be his successor in heading the party, said: "The liberation of the south can be achieved through various methods. We prefer the most tenable ones, such as mobilizing Lebanon's international friendships, especially with the Americans, to reach the desired result."

He expressed his support for Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, and said that the Phalange Party supports the policies of the Lebanese president "not only in his capacity as a Phalangist but also in his capacity as head of the state, the state of united Lebanon, independent Lebanon."

He said: "Lebanon has special relations with Syria, and we believe Lebanon has to concern itself with establishing friendly relations with Syria within a framework of mutual respect and dignity."

He mentioned that the illness of the chairman of the Phalange Party, Pierre al-Jumayyil is the reason for postponing the visit of a party delegation to Damascus, and it is natural that Pierre should be present in any visit or meeting between the party and Syrian officials.

He said that the established facts do not prevent the eventual establishment of friendly relations between Lebanon and otehr Arab countries, especially those which are hostile to Lebanon.

FRANJIYAH URGES LIBERATION, PRESSURE ON U.S.

NC211245 Idhin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Excerpts] In the weekly news conference he held at his summer palace in Idhin this morning, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah called upon the Lebanese people to forget their differences and demands, to give their attention to liberating and safeguarding the sacred Lebanese territories, and to join their efforts and struggle with those of the heroic national resistance, which is the only sound course to liberation. Franjiyah also called on the government to give priority to the question of liberating and safeguarding all Lebanon.

Franjiyah called on Lebanese expatriates to persuade officials of the countries where they reside to exert pressure on the United States to abandon its absolute bias toward Israel.

On the security plan and its implementation in the mountain, Franjiyah said: Talk about the plan is merely for entertainment. Had the originators of this plan been serious in implementing any security plan, then they should have started the implementation before engaging in talk. He who talks much works little.

ISRAELI DRUZE DELEGATION VISITS ASH-SHUF

NC211203 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Reports say an Israeli Druze delegation visited the Ash-Shuf area and met with some socialist officials. The delegation informed these officials that the Israeli Druze want the evacuees to return to the mountain according to the conditions on which agreement had been reached.

The Israeli delegation included Kamal Tarif, nephew of the Druze religious leader in Israel and a member of the Druze-Israeli Relations Committee.

VOL: ISRAEL SAID TO SUPPORT DRUZE MOUNTAIN STAND

NC220657 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] Our correspondent reports that Minister Walid Junblatt received a note from a group of Druze community notables, calling on him to implement his statement that the Druze land has returned to its real owners, so that his promise would not be a mere slogan.

The note said the unity of the Druze stand in the Ash-Shuf areas, the western Al-Biqa', Israel, and in Jabal al-'Arab on this subject still stands and cannot be repealed.

Well-informed sources said the Druze delegation, which visited the Ash-Shuf during the past 2 days, informed the Lebanese community leaders that the Israeli Government extends its material, political, and moral support to any firm stance adopted by the Druze community leaders -- particularly Junblatt -- in confronting the Army's deployment in the mountain.

KUNA: RIF'AT AL-ASAD REPORTED IN FRANCE

LD211313 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1231 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Paris, 21 Aug (KUNA) -- A prominent French official said here today that Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad arrived in France several days ago on a private visit.

The French official told KUNA that this visit is not in response to the official invitation from ex-Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy to Rif'at al-Asad at the beginning of last July. He added that the Syrian vice president will not contact French officials.

In reply to a question concerning a visit by French President Mitterand to Damascus and the possibility that it will occur during the coming weeks, the French official stated, "This visit is not on the cards at the moment because of a fundamental reason -- the nonexistence of any official invitation from President al-Asad to President Mitterrand to visit Syria."

'ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR CONFERS WITH PDRY OFFICIAL

JN211509 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, 21 Aug (SANA) -- Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, has praised Syria's struggle against imperialism and Zionism. This came in a meeting here today between Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Brother 'Abd al-Qadir.

'Abd al-Qadir said that Syria has become a bastion of steadfastness and confrontation under Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He affirmed the firm stand of his country and party alongside Syria and its struggle on all levels to foil all the designs that are hostile to the Arab nation and its struggle toward liberation.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed Syria's firm, principled stand on current developments and its commitment to the Palestinian cause and to the struggle course that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism. He also affirmed Syria's commitment to confront and thwart the deviationist course and to secure the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the establishment of their independent state. He also affirmed the need to bolster the alliance with the USSR, the socialist bloc countries, and the world's progressive and liberation forces.

During the meeting, which falls within the framework of brotherly relations between Syria and the PDRY, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations. They also discussed ways of bolstering these relations and of continuing joint action against imperialism and Zionism to achieve pan-Arab goals and foil the imperialist designs that are aimed against Syria and the progressive forces in general.

ALIGNMENT, LIKUD POLITICAL DOCUMENTS REPORTED

TA211420 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Aug 84 pp 1, 17

[Yosi Melman report]

[Text] The Alignment and Likud negotiating teams will resume their talks today -- this time in Tel Aviv -- on consolidating political guidelines for a national unity government. Before the meeting, the two parties will hold internal consultations to try and reach an acceptable compromise on the two most controversial issues: the future of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the possibility of bringing Jordan into the negotiations.

Sources in the Alignment do not pin many hopes on today's talks, because it is believed that the Likud is not interested in allowing it to "have something to present to the president" when the 21-day period, which the president gave Shim'on Peres to form the government, is over.

However, people in both parties do not believe that at this delicate stage the talks will be called off.

DAVAR publishes here, for the first time, the Alignment and Likud documents, in which they propose political and security guidelines for a national unity government.

The Alignment Document:

A. Primary Objectives:

1. The aim of foreign and defense policy will be to guarantee the country's complete independence, to strengthen its security, and to advance the cause of peace between Israel and all its neighbors.

2. The main political objectives will be to renew the peace process in the area, to strengthen and deepen peace with Egypt, and to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon while guaranteeing the security of the northern settlements.

3. The government will honor all international commitments made by the Israel Government and which have been ratified by the Knesset.

B. The Peace Process:

1. The government will take steps to promote and strengthen relations with Egypt as stipulated in the peace treaty.

2. The government will take steps to continue the peace process with Egypt on the basis of the Camp David accords and will call on Egypt to resume the autonomy negotiations.

3. The government will offer to open negotiations with Jordan without preconditions.

4. The representatives of the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will participate in the negotiations over their future.

C. Settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip:

1. The existence of the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will be guaranteed.

2. The establishment of new settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will require the agreement of the two large factions (the Alignment and the Likud).

D. Lebanon:

The government will act to guarantee the security of the northern settlements and to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon within a short time and which has been set beforehand.

The Likud Document:

A. Primary Objectives:

1. The aim of Israel's foreign and defense policy will be to guarantee the independence of the country, to strengthen its security, and to make peace with all its neighbors.

2. The main political and defense objectives will be to consolidate peace with Egypt and continue the peace process in the area, to strengthen Jewish settlement, to increase the IDF's power and its deterrent capability, and to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon after guaranteeing peace for the northern settlements.

3. The government will take steps to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

B. The Peace Process:

1. The government will continue to consider the desire for peace as its main concern and will do all it can to advance the cause of peace.

2. The government will call on Egypt to fulfill its part in the peace treaty with Israel to give meaning and substance in accordance with the spirit of the treaty and the aims of the signatories, including a complete representation and full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

3. The government will take steps to continue the Middle East peace process on the basis of Camp David. To bring this about the government will:

a. Appeal to Egypt to renew negotiations for establishing full autonomy in the Arab towns of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

b. Call on Jordan to join the peace process.

c. The Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will participate in talks to determine their future in the way prescribed in the Camp David accords.

d. Israel will not negotiate with the PLO.

C. Security:

1. The government will work to increase the IDF's power, its deterrent capability, and its ability to confront any Arab military threat.

2. The government will act firmly to prevent terrorist attacks by the PLO against Israel.

3. Israel will maintain internal security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and will prevent any political and military subversion by the PLO and other hostile groups. Israel will act against terrorism centers where the purpose is to shatter peace and normal life in the area.

4. In order to guarantee the independence of the IDF in future tests, and in order to strengthen Israel's independence from foreign elements, the government will give top priority to independent research and development in the defense field, and will recruit all the scientific and technological potential for the development and increase of production of modern and sophisticated Israeli weapon systems and military equipment which will deter aggression and protect the country.

D. Lebanon:

1. The government will do everything necessary to ensure peace in the Galilee. Security arrangements will be implemented to allow a quick IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

2. The security arrangements to be implemented should prevent the return of terrorists to southern Lebanon and the establishment of an infrastructure there to serve as a base for aggression against northern Israel.

These arrangements require a security zone in southern Lebanon that will be under the control and observation of local forces, backed up and supported by the IDF.

E. Settlement:

1. The existence and development of settlements that have been established or whose establishment has been approved in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will be guaranteed.

2. The establishment of new settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will require the approval of the Cabinet plenum.

F. Foreign Policy:

1. The government will work to extend Israel's ties with countries worldwide and to consolidate Israel's international position.

2. The government will continue to work for deepening the friendship and understanding existing today between the United States and Israel. This relationship is based upon recognition of common interests and will continue to be based upon mutual trust.

3. The government will act to increase understanding with West European countries and will increase its efforts to bring about a change in the lenient stands of the Community's attitudes toward the PLO and Arab blackmail.

The government will be willing to renew diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, which were severed at the USSR's initiative. The renewal of diplomatic relations will be based upon mutual recognition and with the understanding that the Soviet Government will allow every Jew to immigrate to Israel.

G. Jerusalem:

United Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, is one city under Israeli sovereignty and cannot be divided. All sects have been guaranteed, and will be guaranteed, free access to their holy places.

ALIGNMENT, LIKUD 21 AUG POLITICAL TALKS REVIEWED

TA220627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] The Alignment-Likud political teams will meet again tomorrow, in another attempt to formulate basic guidelines for a national unity government agreeable to both sides. Progress was achieved in the long meeting the teams held yesterday but conclusions or agreements were not reached on all points of contention. Yesterday, at the end of the meeting, Alignment's Yitzhaq Navon and Likud's David Levi summed up the talks to date.

[Begin recording] [Navon] As for the issue of new settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, we have agreed to let the prime minister and Mr Shim'on Peres decide the issue, since there is a link between the manner of establishing new settlements and the composition of the government. So, we did not deal with this issue, except to reach the agreement I have just specified.

The two other issues we dealt with concern the appeal to Jordan regarding peace negotiations, and the matter of existing settlements: How these will be treated in the framework of a national unity government, if one indeed is formed. There were exchanges of views and various suggestions on these two issues, and we finally focused on proposals made by the two negotiating parties which seem possible as a basis for a discussion and perhaps also for an agreement.

[Levi] It should be admitted that significant progress has been made as a result of joint efforts by members of the two teams. It may be said today that we have made good progress. There are ideas and material for thought. I hope, we both hope, that by Thursday, at our next meeting we will be able to reach a positive conclusion on the substantive issues. [end recording]

PERES-WEIZMAN POLITICAL ALLIANCE EMERGING

TA211908 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Excerpts] A coalition around the Alignment is emerging. 'Ezer Weizman and his party, the Yahad Movement, will establish one bloc with the Alignment and Yiga'el Hurvitz that will jointly conduct coalition negotiations. It appears, therefore, that all the Likud's chances of establishing a narrowly-based coalition have disappeared.

Nevertheless, the Likud has proposed to the National Religious Party [NRP] that a bloc be established with Tehiya and the other religious parties. At this point, the NRP has rejected the proposal and repeated its position that a national unity government should be established. The talks between the Alignment and the Likud are about to be concluded and, apparently, without a breakthrough. We will now go over to our correspondent Nisim Mish'al, at the Tel Aviv Dan Hotel, to review the latest developments in the political arena.

[Mish'al] Well, the talks have not yet ended. While the Likud and Alignment leaders were meeting here in the Dan Hotel in an attempt to bridge the gaps between them, Shim'on Peres went off to a meeting described as important and decisive with Knesset Member [MK] 'Ezer Weizman. What did the pair talk about? Well, during the talk, the possibility of including the Yahad Movement in a narrowly-based government led by Shim'on Peres was discussed. It has been reported that the pair examined a proposal to establish a common parliamentary bloc of the Alignment, Yahad, and perhaps the Ometz Movement, too, which will jointly conduct negotiations with the Likud and the other parties. This bloc will first conduct negotiations for the establishment of a national unity government.

It should be stressed that Mr Weizman is insisting that all possibilities be exhausted. If this does not succeed, they will try to establish a narrow government based on the support of 61 Knesset members. Let us emphasize that the two, Peres and Weizman, discussed something else in detail: What would happen if there is another early election? It seems that the Alignment is prepared to promise the Yahad Movement suitable representation on the Knesset list if the government that is established under the leadership of Shim'on Peres does not last long. The Alignment is also prepared to promise 'Ezer Weizman the post of foreign minister or finance minister and it is prepared to give Yiga'el Hurvitz a senior economic portfolio. In other words, Shim'on Peres and 'Ezer Weizman are formulating a political pact between them that will guarantee the Yahad Movement's political future.

Well, it was not only MK 'Ezer Weizman who met with Shim'on Peres. Yiga'el Hurvitz and his colleague Zalman Shuval concluded a talk with the Labor Party chairman a few minutes ago. Good evening, sir.

[Hurvitz] Good evening.

[Mish'al] Mr Hurvitz, what did you conclude [sikamta] with Shim'on Peres?

[Hurvitz] We did not conclude anything. I came to tell him that a supreme effort must be made. I stated that the problem is the establishment of a national unity government. I regard this as the solution and the genuine prescription for saving the economy. The economy is in a very grave state. I am repeating this for the umpteenth time. Perhaps some people still do not believe it, but they will believe it.

It seems to me that the smoke can already be smelled; the fire is at the gates and if a supreme effort is not made -- if people do not stop flexing muscles, pretending and telling stories, each one with his own excuses and rebukes, those who regard 'Ezer Weizman as responsible or not responsible for this -- let them stop speaking and nagging and get down to the urgently needed agreement between the Alignment and the Likud so as to save the economy.

[Mish'al] MK Hurvitz, can you give us an unambiguous answer: Are you and 'Ezer Weizman joining Shim'on Peres in a narrowly-based government?

[Hurvitz] If, to my great regret, it turns out that the Likud turns down the proposal Shim'on Peres is making to them, with an illogical rejection, and the reasons -- they will have to fabricate and knit their brows very hard in order to create them -- the various reasons, if it turns out that the Likud rejects it, I will not refuse to join a narrowly-based government led by the Alignment, because I think the economic problems cannot be left to the whims of politicians who are pretending to be leaders but, in fact, are politicians and, who to my great regret, are not passing the test the country is demanding of them today.

[Mish'al] Will you join a minority government with 'Ezer Weizman?

[Hurvitz] I would want a government with the support of at least 61 seats, but I want a broadly-based government with the support of 80-90 seats, that will provide backing for the required economic policy, the policy demanded. I have said it 10 times: A narrow government is a recipe for failure and it has many dangers. But one cannot play at being mad with the country and if the two large blocs do not work something out, to my great regret, and one of them is shown to be guilty, I will not refrain from saying so in public.

[Mish'al] You have returned from a meeting with Shim'on Peres. Perhaps you could say what you expect will happen next in the political campaign?

[Hurvitz] I told Shim'on Peres that there is not much time. There is a fire outside, go and conclude the matter as fast as possible and I want to hear an answer as to where matters stand. In accordance with that answer, I will know how to decide my position.

[Mish'al] Thank you very much. In the meantime, the talks between the Likud and Alignment negotiating teams are continuing and what has been leaked from the discussion so far shows that the argument has concentrated on the future of the existing settlements. It is difficult to speak about a breakthrough in today's talks, although there is some progress, mainly on the matter of the establishment of settlements in the future. According to what has been learned, and this is only preliminary information [break in transmission from the studio, eliminating several words] what involves the procedure of the establishment of new settlements. The matter of the negotiations with Jordan was also raised in the course of the talks. Yitzhaq Navon proposed a new formulation: The Likud reacted with a formulation of its own, and, as I said, the talks are still continuing for what is now the 4th hour. If there are any further developments we will update you during the broadcast.

Shamir Comments

TA220510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0447 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] A few minutes ago the prime minister reacted to the agreement being formulated between the Alignment and 'Ezer Weizman. Our correspondent Arye Golan talked with the prime minister.

[Golan -- live] Yes, I must say that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not sound particularly concerned over this development. He still intends to meet with 'Ezer Weizman at 1000 this morning in his office.

I first asked the prime minister for his general reaction to this development involving the Alignment, Yahad, and Hurvitz.

[Begin Shamir recording] All you said has nothing to do with the task of forming a national unity government. A national unity government should be formed by the two large camps. Without this, there is no national unity government. [end recording]

[Golan -- live] I then asked the prime minister whether, despite the fact that 'Ezer Weizman has almost signed, perhaps signed, an agreement with Shim'on Peres already, he will still meet with Weizman this morning. The prime minister said: Absolutely yes.

[Begin Shamir recording] This meeting is at his initiative. Weizman proposed to come and explain his motives and plans to me. I will meet with him. If he signed an agreement, he will tell me about it. [end recording]

[Golan -- live] My third and last question to the prime minister was: In light of Weizman's move, have the chances of forming a national unity government increased? Following is Shamir's answer:

[Begin Shamir recording] As you know, we are conducting negotiations. The negotiations are progressing and we will continue this effort which is important for the nation. We will do our utmost so that such a government is established. [end recording]

[Golan -- live] I also tried to ask whether Weizman's move, in fact, crowns Shim'on Peres as the prime minister of a national unity government. Shamir said that the issue of premiership, which is so often addressed, will be discussed in the negotiations. It is on this note that I ended my talk with him.

WEIZMAN SAID TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH ALIGNMENT

TA220620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman last night signed an agreement with the Alignment to participate in a national unity government or in a narrowly based government. According to the agreement, Yahad Knesset members may also join the Alignment as a faction. This is reported by our correspondent Amnon Nadav.

The Yahad Movement says that the Likud this morning proposed to Knesset Member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer to serve as a senior Cabinet minister if he joins a Likud-led government. Senior Likud sources deny this allegation.

'Ezer Weizman will meet with Prime Minister Shamir in Jerusalem in about an hour. The prime minister said that the effort to form a national unity government will continue and that this has nothing to do with the Alignment-Yahad agreement.

PARTIES REACH AGREEMENT ON MOST ECONOMIC ISSUES

TA220446 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] The Alignment and the Likud have reached an agreement on most economic issues. Our correspondent reports that Yig'al Kohen-Orgad and Gad Ya'aqobi yesterday agreed on ways to decrease the deficit in the balance of payments, on measures to curb inflation, on a social compact and on tax reform. There still are disagreements on a number of issues, and the joint economic teams of the Alignment and the Likud will discuss them today.

LEFTIST PARTIES' CONDITIONS FOR ALIGNMENT SUPPORT

TA220640 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 84 p 2

[Joshua Brilliant Report]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- The Communist-dominated Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) [hadash] and the (Arab-Jewish) Progressive List for Peace (PLP) said yesterday that their support for an Alignment-led government cannot be taken for granted.

So far the Alignment has not approached them formally on support for a coalition.

PLP leader Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari and DFPE spokesman 'Uzi Burstein both made it clear that they do not envision their parties joining a coalition. The Zionist parties would not meet the far-reaching demands they would present for such widespread support, they said.

But they are willing in principle to vote with a narrow Alignment-led coalition in votes of confidence in theKnesset.

Burstein said the DFPE would support a coalition that promised to withdraw from Lebanon "immediately" and to take economic steps favouring wage earners.

The general tone of Burstein's comments was that cost-of-living allowance should not be cut, the government should update income tax brackets and prices should be frozen.

Mi'ari placed a higher price tag on his and MK Matityahu Peled's votes: He wants a formal request from Labour and the formation of "negotiating teams to start talking."

The PLP wants the government to agree to attend an international conference on the Palestinian problem. "All parties hould attend it," he said, in an obvious reference to the PLO.

Mi'ari also wants the Emergency Regulations abolished. It was these regulations that the Defence Ministry cited when it considered banning the PLP before the election.

Measures should be taken to put Israel's Arabs on an equal footing with the Jews, Mi'ari said.

The DFPE's comments implied that it is eager to see a narrow Alignment -- even if led by the Alignment — just as bad as a Likud-led coalition.

AGUDAT ON WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH PERES

TA211926 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Menahem Porush of Agudat Yisra'el told our correspondent this evening that if it turns out that the Likud cannot form a narrow coalition, Agudat Yisra'el will be prepared to negotiate with the Alignment. Consultations are now being held in Agudat Yisra'el over future coalition moves. Our correspondent Beni Lis reports:

[Begin videotape] [Shapira] After we hear from Weizman in person if it is true, that is, if it is true that he has made a final agreement with the Alignment and will enter the Alignment, as it were, as a faction, if that is true, then it means there is no more chance of forming a coalition with the Likud. That is really something tbat changes the political map.

[Lis] MK Porush, if the Likud really does tell you it cannot form a narrow coalition of ists own, does this, the commitment, permit you to go with the Alignment?

[Porush] I want to make it clear: Only after they say they have lost all hope of forming a government will we be released from our partnership. We are difficult negotiating partners -- or so at least our public thinks -- because of our demands to remove the discrimination the public is used to. But when we establish a partnership, we are faithful partners to the end. We will not make any move that will make it difficult for the Likud. As for Weizman, there is no doubt that the report as we heard it an hour ago is a very serious one, but just as that move is serious on the one side, he can also return to the Likud, which is, after all, closer to him than the Alignment. [end videotape]

Torah Sages Oppose Talks

TA220648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el Knesset Member Menahem Porush says that Rabbi Shakh of the Council of Torah Sages instructed him not to conduct negotiations with the Alignment in the wake of the agreement with Weizman, and to adhere to the partnership with the Likud. Representatives of the National Religious Party [NRP], Agudat Yisra'el, and other parties hinted to Labor Party Knesset members that after the agreement with Weizman is signed they, too, will join a coalition with the Alignment. However, Minister Zvulun Hammer believes that the NRP will adhere to its current stance and will not join a narrowly-based government.

PROGRESSIVE LIST LEADER ON TALKS WITH ALIGNMENT

TA211245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace has said that the Alignment cannot rely on his party's automatic support for a narrowly-based government. In an interview with our correspondent, Mi'ari said that the Alignment should officially contact his party in order to establish working teams for negotiations The Alignment should talk with us about peace and the equality of Arab citizens, he said, and the price for this should be paid. Among other things, he said that his party demands the convening of an international Middle East conference, as suggested by the UN secretary general. Mi'ari said his party also wants a minister for peace affairs and the abolition of national insurance regulations which discriminate against Arabs.

DEMONSTRATION FOR UNITY GOVERNMENT HELD 21 AUG

TA211928 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Right now, in Tel Aviv, only a few hundred people are taking part in a rally in Kikar Malkhe Yisra'el [Municipality Square]. The rally was organized by the Movement for Zionist Fullfillment in order to support the call for a national unity government. Participating in the rally are Menahem Savidor, who was the speaker of the 10th Knesset; Aharon Yariv; and former Knesset Member Mordekhay Ben-Porat. The speakers called on the two large parties to rise above party interests and unite because of Israel's difficult situation.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID HOLDS TALKS WITH TUNISIA'S ESSEBSI

LD212207 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] This afternoon, President Chadli Bendjedid received at the presidential headquarters Beji Caid Essebsi, the foreign minister and special envoy of the Tunisian president. Essebsi delivered a message from President Habib Bourguiba to President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Mohamed (Hamamou), a director at the Foreign Ministry, and by the Tunisian Ambassador in Algiers.

Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian foreign minister, arrived in Algiers today. At the airport he said that he is carrying a message from President Habib Bourguiba to President Chadli Bendjedid. The Tunisian minister, who was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Nourredine Harbi, vice minister of cooperation and by the Tunisian Ambassador in Algeria, explained that his visit is part of the regular consultations between Presidents Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid and between the two Tunisian and Algerian Governments.

Caid Essebsi added: My visit comes after the two visits which were paid recently to Tunisia by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and it is aimed at strengthening cooperation in all fields between the two countries.

In conclusion, the Tunisian minister said that the visit also seeks an exchange of views on international issues, especially matters concerning the area in the current stage like the building of the Arab Maghreb in the interests of the nations of the area.

LIBYA

'ASSASSINATION' OF CITIZEN IN UK PROTESTED

LD220759 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli 22 Aug (JANA) -- A spokesman for the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has stated the following:

Following the assassination of the Libyan Arab citizen 'Ali Muhammad al-Jahur in London on Monday 20 August 1984, the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Italian charge d'affaires in his capacity as representative of the state looking after the British interests in Libya and expressed to him its protest and strong denunciation of the criminal act, the assassination of the Libyan citizen 'Ali Muhammad al-Jahbur, reaffirming that the circumstances in which this criminal act was carried out do not rule out the British authorities' involvement and collusion. The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison also warned against the consequences of any criminal act against the safety of the Libyan citizens who are in Britain and placed full responsibility for that on the British authorities.

MOROCCO

HASSAN ADDRESSES PEOPLE ON UNITY WITH LIBYA

LD212203 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Rabat 21 Aug (MAP) -- On the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the king and people revolution, King Hassan II addressed a speech last night to the Moroccan people. Here is the text of the speech which was relayed on radio and TV live from the royal palace in Casablanca:

God be praised and God's prayers and blessings on our master the prophet and his family and followers.

My dear people, every year on 20 August we meet to celebrate the anniversary of the king and people revolution. During the past months we received with great satisfaction the great news that the sisters Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania drew up among themselves a treaty of good-neighborliness and brotherhood. In this brave step we see confirmation of the will of the Arab Maghreb leaders to build it [the Arab Maghreb]. We blessed that step and prayed to God that the opportunity to complete the unity of the Arab Maghreb would arise. That history should not censure or condemn us for failing to do the thinking and creative work we should have, the two countries of the Arab Maghreb on the right and left flanks -- Libya and Morocco -- seized a historic opportunity; these two countries saw the chance to add their federation to the earlier federation of the tripartite group consisting of Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania.

What is important, in my opinion, is not that the matter starts from the flanks or the middle. The important thing is that the structure of the Arab Maghreb should stand on its feet. Dear people, let me tell you briefly how the federation between the two countries came about:

On Friday, 13 July, having had the extreme pleasure of attending the inauguration of Benmessik quarter, and following the glorious meeting I had with the people of Casablanca, I returned to the palace, where I received a mission sent by my friend His Excellency Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi consisting of Counselor Az-Zuwayy and an ambassador. I received them at my office. They brought me a message from his excellency the colonel. At the time, I had with me Counselor Ahmed Reda Guedira and Interior Minister Driss Basri. Thus there were five of us altogether.

No one, including me in particular, could have said then what the outcome of that meeting would be. Envoy Az-Zuwayy handed me message from His Excellency Col Al-Qadhdhafi consisting of four or five pages. I read it quickly. It was a circular message which he had sent to all the heads of Arab countries. In short, he said the following:

Last year, that is last July, I took upon myself to visit several of the Arab countries with whom Libya had some outstanding problems. I have resolved these problems and placed myself above sensitivities and selfish interests. I visited several countries which included North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I also passed through Syria and finally came to Morocco.

True, his excellency the colonel came to Morocco in July, during Ramadan. The colonel said: I sought one thing with my visit -- to use my capabilities to improve the Arab lot and clear the Arab skies so that we might not miss the boat and so that we might not find ourselves face to face not with a fait accompli but with the burying of the Arab destiny.

But, his excellency the colonel's message adds, I see that a year has passed and that the Arab atmosphere has become even more tense and bilateral relations between some Arab countries have worsened. Anyway, in the face of this situation, I have before me a crisis of conscience and every Arab country should bear its responsibility before this state of affairs.

I closed the message and said the following to the envoy: Tell H E the colonel that I share with him this feeling of bitterness and disappointment.

Personally, I told him, as the chairman of the Arab summit conference, I would like an Arab summit conference to be held as soon as possible. First of all I think that the atmosphere is not right and not ready, and the situation is deteriorating every day. I said to him "No one can be generous with what they have not got. What can Libya do and what can Morocco do? Are the lands of Libya and Morocco occupied? He said, "No." I said to him, "Are they frontline countries?" He said, "No." I said, "Then we must go back to the real ones who have the right and ask them a question."

These are the Egyptians, Syrians, Jordanians, and Palestinians, and naturally all the Muslims as far as Jerusalem is concerned. We will say to them: We can only help you, but liberating your countries is your job, deciding how the Palestinian entity can arise and become a state is the concern of the Palestinians.

We can only go with them in any direction they choose if they want to regain the usurped and occupied land. If it is by war, they know that Morocco has fulfilled its promises; and I know that Colonel Qadhdhafi will fulfil his promise. If it is by negotiations, we are ready. Each one will mobilize his friends to restore the land by negotiations. [Word indistinct] instead of doing the job of those whose lands and rights have been usurped and occupied, I said to him, "No one can be generous with what they do not have."

At that moment I had an idea. I said to him, "But I have something and you also have something." He said to me, "How is that?" I said to him," Let us construct a federation between Libya and Morocco." We do not want to say to the Arabs: Rise, work and mobilize. No. We must show them that, before anybody else, we are ready to fly over the 3,000 kms which separate us and construct a solidarity bridge. Not a demagogy bridge or slogan bridge, but solidarity built on what is rational, historic, Arab and Islamic; built on what belongs to the Mediterranean and on ancient bonds between the peoples of Libyan and Morocco. I am ready as of this moment to make this federation into a reality.

The Libyan delegation and the two Moroccans who were with me were naturally surprised. I was personally surprised while talking. Not because it was strange, but surprised because I did not think of this some years ago. Surprised because I did not say it 2 years ago.

Anyhow, everything in its own good time and God will do nothing but good. After that I said to them peace be with you, and convey my reply to his excellency the colonel. Two days later I received the reply of the colonel. It was a reply of pleasure, welcome and deep amazement. It was not amazement due to fear. They said the word "amazement" to me and I said, "The fact that you used this word indicates that the president gives the words their proper meanings." They said to me, "We made an effort and a setback occurred. We tried here and there, and we would not like another setback between two Arab countries, because the damage from a setback will be much greater than the non-achievement of this federation. But if our intentions are good, whether as far as Libya or Morocco are concerned" -- these are the words of the Libyan envoys -- "then the colonel welcomes, and cheers, and he is ready for us to proceed in this direction."

I will bypass the historical periods. The important thing is that for the matter to suceed it must have the following elements:

First: Sincere persistent will on both sides. It is there; praise be to God.
Second: The belief that will can overcome the geographic realities. This also is present.

Third: The work should deal with specific matters and not slogans or hollow words, and not in a hollow style.
Finally -- and this is the most important: The greatest possible secrecy.

Within exactly a month -- what I said to you occurred on 13 July 1984 -- on 14 August of the same year we were in Oujda to sign the treaty. Thirty days exactly between the idea and its implementation.

My dear people, you have heard the text of the treaty on which we ask you to vote "yes" on the day of the referendum. But this reading is not enough. As of tomorrow, we will distribute as many copies as possible, and we will also give the newspapers all the texts so that they might be able to become informed concerning them. We have also given permission to all members of our government and leaders of the political parties and all those who volunteered to arrange seminars and gatherings in towns and villages to explain item by item the purpose of this treaty.

According to what is contained in the introduction about the lessons of the setbacks and disappointments experienced by other Arab countries when they tried to establish federations or unions, personally I think, my dear people, that the text which we present you in the referendum is suitable for you for the present and for the future. Suitable for the present because it is the best possible for now, and for the future because its items do not contain anything that prevents the introduction of improvements or extensions or changes for the better.

First The introduction by the faqihs on explaining the Koran or the words of the prophet is the reason, or to use a legal terminology, the motive of the legislation. The introduction says exactly what are the aims of this federation between Libya and Morocco. In the introduction it is said that this thing was primarily, first and last established to preserve the rights of the Arabs and the Islamic nation and to preserve their rights and legitimacy; and this is very important.

Second: The introduction says that this federation is called the Arab African federation. We could have called it the Arab Federation, but we said no. We agreed, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhadhafi and I, that Morocco and Libya are two Arab countries, but they are also from Africa. This makes it different from all the previous Arab-Arab treaties. It is not only a federation between two Arab countries, but it is a federation for any Arab country which wants to join, or any country which belongs to the African family, even if it is at the other end of Africa, such as Mozambique; or in the center of Arica, such as Nigeria.

This shows, if anything, the realistic outlook. First of all we live in Africa, so there is no racist spirit. And when we say the African countries and the African family, we do not say the countries which belong to the African family and whose religion is Islam. We say, because of the tolerance of Islam and because of the solidarity which should be the soul of the African and Arab countries, whatever these countries might be, the condition is that they belong to the African family. This is very important, and this is a new phenomenon, and this is what will show that this treaty is not just for the present, but will be more suitable and successful in the future than it is now. We say also that this treaty is in your interests, my dear people. Why should you say yes to it? Because it is built on the law.

To be fair, it is not we who added the chapter of "federal court of justice." It is only fair to say that the Libyan side, specifically Col al-Quadhdhafi, is the one who added that chapter. I said to him jokingly, "When a couple gets married, do they mention the judge who will separate them?" He answered, "No, but we do not wish to oppress anybody or for anybody to oppress us. We have to give ourselves a legal reference, so that when someone violates the letter or the spirit, we can refer the matter to the federal court of justice instead of fighting or separating." I said, "If this is the motive, then may God reward you with good things."

There are even other measures which specify that the International Court of Justice in The Hague will replace this federal court of justice if it is unable to reach a solution. But this will come in the exchange of letters between us, and does not fall within the framework of the federation. This treaty is drawn up under the umbrella of the law and international law, a bilateral international law between us, a court of justice, but if this court of justice is unable to solve the problem, then we will both write to The Hague and inform it that as of now, in advance, in every problem referred to it, it should consider that both parties accept its judgement. This is because the court of The Hague cannot consider the cases unless the two sides agree. So, my dear people, you can see the legal and moral sides which we included in the treaty. The law and legislation are not the law of the weak or the law of the strong. If bilateral law is not enough, then there is international law, i.e., the international court of he Hague, which [word indistinct] the pledge of loyalty of the people of the Saharan to the 'Alawi kings [King Hasan II's ancestors].

One of the advantages of this treaty, also, is the third clause of Article 8, which specifies that it is an international treaty and not a regional one. It states what the aims are. When someone contracts a treaty, he aims at something, and this is the end. The federation is aimed at contributing to the preservation of peace whenever it is based on justice and it has the characters of permanency and stability. This is important for both our friends and enemies abroad. We did not construct a federation to make trouble or disturb the people. We did not construct a federation against anyone. We established the federation to justify itself and its chosen noble objective -- that of contributing to the preservation of peace. What is the meaning of preservation of peace? It means that if a legitimate issue arises tomorrow in Europe, Africa, Latin America or Asia, and a group of countries, such as the UN, decide to send forces to preserve peace and security, and this peace is in accordance with justice and fairness, without hesitation, there will be a Moroccan soldier and a Libyan soldier next to each other standing in the place which the UN indicates is the right place for preserving the peace, whenever this pleace was based on right and fairness and characterized with permanency and stability.

Lastly my dear people, this treaty will not reduce Libyan or Moroccan freedom of action. We say that this treaty does not cancel other treaties which exist between each country and others. In the futute, it will not stop Morocco from establishing other federations with whoever it wishes, or Libya from establishing other federations with whoever it wishes, or Libya from establishing other federations with whoever it wants, provided of course that these federations are not designed to harm the original federation, which is the federation between Morocco and Libya.

So, my dear people, you will see and hear explanations from more persons than me and better persons than me and with more details. I have tried to show you the philosophy of this treaty. But, to be fair, I also mention the 10th article which says that the federation has an administrative budget and a budget for development. I did not accept this 10th article. My friend Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asked me why I did not accept it? I said that I did not accept it because I know jealous or dwarfish politicians will think that Morocco has designs on Libya's wealth. This point could be recorded in a message if you want, but should not be in the federation [treaty] so that no one says that we are greedy. His answer was that if article 10 is not in the treaty, then he will not sign it. The treaty between us is unbiased, and we are brothers helping each other. This is in all fairness and so that we would be fair to history.

So, my dear people, what was a dream has been achieved in a way, which God wanted to be flexible, tactful, and good, and I say this in an innocent way, because there are two kinds of treaties, there are innocent treaties and treaties that are not innocent. The treaty between us and Libya is innocent. Why? Because there is no problems between us and Libya which we want to solve. We have no problems of borders or continental shelf between us and Libya to be solved. We are 3,000 kilometers apart.

So, the treaty between us is not only unbiased, but more than that it is innocent. Second: the treaty is innocent because it is not directed against anyone, but it is in our interest and leaves the door open for whoever wants to join.

Third: As I said at the beginning of my speech, it complements what Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania did. In any case, if these three started from the middle, then there is nothing to stop us from establishing something between us.

When our union is set up a secretary-general will be designated and will take up his duties at the headquarters of the general secretariat. The annexed protocols will clarify certain points. The train will be on the rails. Morocco and Libya will be ready to undertake a dialogue with all those who would like to suggest new ideas or join us.

Moreover, through wisdom and in the hope of avoiding setbacks and disappointments, we must first and foremost proceed with the appointment of the secretary general and designate the headquarters of the general secretariat. In this regard I have agreed with my friend Col al-Qadhdhafi that the headquarters of the general secretariat should be set up in Libya and that the secretary general of the union should be Moroccan. We shall designate him, if God pleases, after his approval by referendum.

While we are ready to begin a frank and sincere dialogue with anyone who so wishes, we shall wait for the designation of the secretary general, the deputy secretary general and the commissions; for the protocols to be prepared and the texts governing the union's legal court, which is very important, drawn up before doing so. It is only then that we shall be able to welcome anyone who wishes to give us his ideas as we can ourselves take the initiative in addressing ourselves to other countries [sentence as received]. They do not necessarily have to belong to the African Continent -- we could approach another Arab country.

My words are not directed against any country, whether it be to the north, the south, the east or the west. I insist on pointing this out so that no one comes asking to join us and risk a refusal at a time when we prefer to devote ourselves to constructing our union. Only when the structure is complete will we be able to welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Dear People, on 31 August you will be asked to make your pronouncement in a referendum by saying yes or no. In all sincerity, in all equity and with the strength of my fervent patriotism, the depth of which is no greater than my faith in God, I tell you -- I never give you orders -- that it is in your interests to reply "yes" to the question you will be asked on 31 August. I know that we -- you and I -- are in perfect harmony. Experience has taught me that our hearts have always beat in harmony. I am also confident that God will work it so that your choice will fulfil my hopes.

In the coming weeks, dear people, you will be called upon in other elections to choose your representatives. In this respect I should like to recall the terms of Article 3 of the Constitution: "Political parties, trade union organizations, communal councils and professional chambers work together to organize and represent citizens."

With regard to municipal and communal assemblies, candidates with no political affiliation are free to stand. Indeed citizens choose to represent them on the municipal and communal level those who are most apt to defend their interests and to help them. But I tell you that henceforth it will be unconstitutional for a person with no political affiliation to stand at the legislative election on 14 September. This means that every candidate must be affiliated to a party. He has the free choice to belong to the political party he wishes. To be a representative without belonging to a political party poses a problem, since a parliamentary group must be composed of at least 12 members [of parliament]. Secondly, supposing that a candidate with no political affiliation succeeds in collecting votes and getting elected, one must ask oneself if he has a program and particularly if he has enough supporters to help him defend such a program. If we were to tolerate the candidacy of people with no political following, we would be helping to foster a certain kind of mercenary element within the House of Representatives, and thus about 20 votes belonging to no party would capitalize on this every time there is a government crisis, which is unthinkable.

It is absolutely impossible in Moroccan democracy and political morality for such things to happen in the country. The Constitution, which is the supreme law, forbids people to stand for parliament when they do not belong to any legal political grouping.

Dear people, with you and for you, my august father liberated our dear homeland. The Almighty wanted your servant, son and disciple of the lamented Mohammed V, to recover territories which were still occupied and not forget our northern towns which are still occupied. God also allowed me to achieve what was only a dream in the times of my father and his companions, some of whom are no longer of this world, that is to say the construction of the Arab Maghreb. Thanks be to God; we have begun that construction and we shall reach our goal.

To avoid all confusion only the official text of the treaty of union is in Arabic and its translation in French, which will be published in the official gazette this Wednesday, will be valid. Any interpretation which does not conform to these official texts will fall into the realm of ill-intentioned manipulation. They should therefore be ruled out.

I pray to the Almighty to make 20 August not only a commemoration of the past and its glorious epics, but also a step towards a better future, so that in 1985, on the same day, if God pleases, we shall not only celebrate the Arab-African union concluded by Morocco and Libya, but also a much broader union which we ask God to help us to achieve. May God grant the prayers of his faithful servants.

SOMALIA

VICE PRESIDENT DEPARTS FOR ROMANIA 21 AUG

EA211703 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Summary] The second vice president of the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic], Challe Hussein Kulmie Afrah, left for Romania today to attend the 40th anniversary of Romania's national day on 23 August.

"The vice president told SONNA [Somali National News Agency] reporters at the airport that he would deliver a special message from the SDR president, Challe Muhammad Siad Barre, to the secretary general of the Romanian CP and president of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu. Challe Kulmie added that he would also brief the Romanian leaders on the current situation in the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Gulf region."

HALGAN INTERVIEWS SNM CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

EA211456 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 20 Aug 84

[Studio interview with Ibrahim Meygag Samatur, member of the Somali National Movement, SNM, Central Committee, by unidentified announcer, date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Ibrahim, since you were the chairman of the Fourth Somali National Movement Congress, you have witnessed the real situation of the struggle. There are frequent reports by the dictatorial regime of misunderstandings within the SNM in an attempt to demoralize the Somali people. Since you have been here and seen the situation, please tell the people what you have seen.

[Samatur] The meeting which was attended by representatives from external branches, the battlefield, and administrative headquarters showed a high level of maturity and unity. The people are aware of the task before them. There was no sign of any confrontation or division.

If the (?regime) is dreaming of that, it is a vain hope. The false propaganda about the movement will have little effect as the Somali people know the truth. They know the low level to which our country has sunk politically and economically and they know the wretchedness of their lives. They also know that it is the oppression of Siad Barre that has been the cause of it all. Therefore, whatever he says will not convince the Somali people. For their part, the SNM and the opposition in general should increase their efforts in raising their voice. They should have a voice worth listening to, and should publicize events in the Horn of Africa and particularly in Somalia. They should reveal to the world the shameful acts of Siad Barre, who will not continue in his position forever.

[Announcer] Since [dates indistinct], when it had its meeting in London, the SNM has had four congresses during which there have been changes politically and militarily and in all aspects. What would you say is the difference politically between this congress and the others?

[Samatur] I did not attend the previous meetings, but it was evident from this congress that a great deal of experience had been gained during the 3 years of armed struggle both in combat and politics and in administration. This congress made it evident that it was going to make proper use of the experience it had gained. Today the Somali movement, and the opposition in general, is poised to wage an extensive war against the oppression -- political war, diplomatic war, inspired armed struggle, a war within and without. This war is definitely going to succeed.

The congress made it evident that the struggle to free our people from oppression is not confined to the armed combatant but is many-faceted and involves political and other forms of struggle. Proof of this was provided by the attendance at the congress, which attracted Somalis from all levels as well as by the new leadership which was elected and which is expected to provide political expertise [words indistinct].

[Announcer] In conclusion, what would you say to the Somali people by way of encouragement or on the progress of the struggle?

[Samatur] I would like to say a few words to the Somali people in general and to its various sectors in particular. Brothers and sisters, today our country is in a sad state of affairs. We have been subjected to the oppression of Mohamed Siad Barre for 15 years.

At first we were hopeful when the civilian [word indistinct] rule was overthrown by the Armed Forces that there would be development, that the people would be united, that a national development program wiuld be launched. It was for that reason that we gave them our full support. But history has acknowledged that the regime has gone astray, that it has been responsible for the country's present state, that it has armed the people against each other, that it has set clan against clan. That far from progress, the scanty resources [words indistinct]. Things have reached a stage where it has become imperative for people to learn from experience and to wage an armed struggle against oppression. The struggle will not go on much longer without succeeding. I therefore call on the Somali people to [words indistinct] to have confidence, to continue their struggle in the knowledge that justice finally triumphs.

I would like to particularly address the youth and the intellectuals on the need for them to explain to the people the situation prevailing in the country and what the oppressive government is up to. They should be vigilant and should guard against attempts to mislead the people by telling them the truth. Religious leaders and elders have a special responsibility. In a desperate attempt to survive, the oppressor is creating divisions among the Somali people and is arming one clan against another. It is therefore the duty of elders and religious leaders at all levels, in accordance with religious teachings, to preach and establish lasting peace among the clans and to lead them away from the ugly policies of the oppressive regime.

I would like to say a word to the Armed Forces serving Siad Barre. Brothers, [words indistinct] and at what level is our flag and its dignity today? Who actually is the enemy of the flag? The enemy of the flag is the oppressor [words indistinct]. Will you turn your guns on your brothers and people, or will you point them at the enemy of the flag. Mohamed Siad Barre? Members of the Armed Forces still in the country have a heavy responsibility. We appeal to you, brothers, when the day of reckoning comes, to point your guns at the place they ought to be pointed.

I would like to say a word to Mohamed Siad Barre. Your favorate proverb used to be that it is the broom that wears down but the ground remains. You are the broom today and the Somali people are the ground. We advise you that to secure a place in history you should hand over [power] quietly so that the Somali people will be free to decide their destiny once your dictatorship is removed. I know you will not accept this. History has recorded that dictators are blind. [Passage indistinct] They forget history. Therefore, I do not think you will take this advice. But the day of reckoning will come.

BURKINA

GROUP OF RDC'S CHALLENGE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

AB211705 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Niamey, Aug 21 (AFP) -- A group of Burkina Faso's local Revolutionary Defense Committees (RDC's) in Ouagadougou has openly challenged the National Secretariat of the government-sponsored committees, according to a petition sent from the West African nation to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in neighbouring Niger.

The petition was dated August 7 and signed by "23 neighbourhood RDC's from Ouagadougou" which claimed to have no particular political affiliations. It expressed "concern" over "certain events and practices which could damage the gains made by the revolution," a reference to the August 4, 1983 coup which brought the current regime in Burkina Faso -- then called Upper Volta -- to power and led to the setting up of the committees.

The petition identified the "root of the evil" as the RDC's National General Secretariat, which is headed by Captain Pierre Ouedraogo. It also attacked a body known as the "Inte RDC", with which it said the General Secretariat was "in collusion". Saying it did not know "when, how or by whom" the Inter-RDC had been set up, the petition accused the body of "sowing division in the neighbourhoods by setting activists against their leaders." The petition demanded the disolution of the Inter-RDC and called on the General Secretariat to "at last live up to the importance of its task."

Reacting to the petition in a motion adopted on Saturday, the Defense Committee for Kamasaoghin, a large Ouagadougou neighbourhood, said that document was a "declaration of war against people's power" in Burkina Faso and "an intolerable abuse of democratic [word indistinct]."

The motion said that petition had been drawn up by members of the Patriotic Development League (Lipad), a Marxist group which has been participating in the country's one-year-old radical government and which was at the centre of an earlier row over its alleged fractionalism in May. On August 4, the first anniversary of the take-over headed by Captain Thomas Sankara, the country's name was changed from Upper Volta to Burkina Faso and its people are now referred to as Burkinabe.

GUINEA

EX-PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI REPORTED DEAD

AB211248 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Paris, Aug 21 (AFP) -- The former prime minister of Guinea, Lansana Beavogui, died in hospital in the Guinean capital, Conakry, at the weekend, informed French sources said here today. He was 62.

Mr Beavogui, a diabetic, had been held at Kindia prison, 100 kms (60 miles) northeast of Conakry, since the April 3 military coup a week after the death of President Ahmed Sekou Toure. The sources said Mr Beavogui was taken to the hospital last week after his condition worsened. He had had treatment for his illness in North Korea, Yugoslavia and the United States. Often mentioned as a possible successor to Mr Sekou Toure, Mr Beavogu was born at Macenta, near the border with Liberia. He was mayor of Kissidougou when Guinea achieved independence in 1958 and served as trade and industry minister and foreign minister before becoming prime minister in 1972.

LIBERIA

STUDENTS BOYCOTT, CALL FOR RELEASE OF SAWYER

AB211650 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Students of the University of Liberia are today continuing their boycott of classes which started yesterday in protest against what they call the arbitrary illegal detention of Dr Amos Sawyer, dean of the Liberia College, and Mr George Kieh, a political science lecturer and a Ph.D candidate. This boycott, according to today's DAILY OBSERVER, triggered off yesterday following a meeting of University of Liberia students in the institution's auditorium marked by a peaceful call by the students for the release of Dr Sawyer and Mr Kieh. Today's FOOTPRINTS also quotes the vice president for administration of the University of Liberia, Dr Patrick Senyah, as telling the students yesterday that the arrests of Dr Amos Sawyer and Mr George Kieh are a critical challenge to the University of Liberia. Dr Senyah is reported as saying there are people at the University of Liberia who instigate mob actions on campus. These people, he added, want to see the University of Liberia closed down. Dr Senyah said the university administration needs time to reflect on such a challenge.

The FOOTPRINTS newspaper also revealed today that the former director general of the Cabinet, Mr G. Baccus Matthews, has requested an audience with the head of state, Commander in Chief Doe, to discuss current political developments in the country. It can be recalled that yesterday members of the University of Liberia Faculty Senate and University Council described the arrest and detention of Dr Sawyer and Mr Kieh as an action which has eroded the success thus far achieved in the process to return Liberia to civilian rule. The statement signed by members of the University Faculty Senate and University Council called for the immediate release of two of its faculty members.

Doe Warns Against Disturbances

AB211958 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] The head of state has said authorities and faculty of the University of Liberia will be held responsible for any disturbance caused by students at the university. He warned against anyone creating a situation that would require the university to be closed.

According to the LIBERIA NEWS AGENCY, Dr Doe made the statement during an Executive Mansion meeting with the president of the university, Dr [Lily] Anthony Brown Sherman, accompanied by the vice president for academic affairs, Dr James T. Tarpeh. Responding to a letter written to him by the university president submitting a position paper on the behalf of Dr Sawyer, the head of state expressed surprise that the monographed document already circulating around Monrovia was submitted to him by Dr Sherman for his reaction. Dr Doe said he expected Mrs Sherman to officially inquire from government why Dr Sawyer was arrested before coming out with a position paper.

In her remark, the president of the university said the university position paper, which is demanding immediate release of Dr Sawyer, was written before the charges against Dr Sawyer were disclosed last night. Head of state Doe again said when investigations are concluded Dr Sawyer and others will be given a fair and speedy trial.

LESOTHO

NEW POLITICAL SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER NAMED

MB211949 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] The cabinet office has appointed Francis Scabat Matholoane to the new post of secretary for political affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister. Prior to his appointment, Mr Matholoane was Lesotho's high commissioner in Nairobi, a position he held since July 1982. In his new position, Mr Matholoane will be responsible to the prime minister for the coordination of all political matters affecting his office.

Mr Matholoane began his civil service career in the then Department of Home Affairs and has since occupied several positions, including that of first secretary at Lesotho's permanent mission to the United Nations, that of labor commissioner, and also that of deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communications. He holds a master's degree in political science, which he obtained from Rutgers University in New Jersey in the United States.

MOZAMBIQUE

PFP LEADER HELEN SUZMAN RETURNS TO RSA

MB211437 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Helen Suzman, a leader of South Africa's Progressive Federal Party, returned to her country yesterday after a 2-day visit to Mozambique. Yesterday, Helen Suzman held a meeting with Minister of Information Jose Luis Cabaco, during which a message from President Samora Machel was delivered to her. She was also received by Minister of Security Colonel Sergio Vieira and Bank of Mozambique Governor Prakash Ratilal. Helen Suzman's visit was made at the invitation of the National Organization of Journalists.

SOUTH AFRICA

PREDICTIONS, OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON ELECTIONS

Labor Party Supports New House

MB211021 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 20 Aug 84

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] All eyes in South Africa this week will be on Thursday's [as heard] elections for a Colored Chamber of Parliament. Asians would be voting next week, but although this means South Africa will have a multiracial parliament, it is being heavily criticized for excluding black Africans and the speculation is that the Whites will still hold the real power. It is also being claimed by opponents such as the United Democratic Front, which is boycotting the election, that the turnout will, at the highest, be only 15 percent. In Durban, Neil Lewis talked to Albie Stayman, member of the Executive Committee of the Colored Labor Party, which is contesting the election, and asked him if Colored MP's wouldn't be overshadowed by the Whites.

[Begin Stayman recording] First of all there are three chambers and each chamber's decisions would be determined by a majority vote. But when it comes to consensus politics, the three houses will sit together as a unit and no voting will take place there. But the consensus side of politics will work where decisions are taken by consensus, and I can clearly see the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates forming themselves into a formidable opposition.

[Lewis] In actual fact you are thinking, I suppose, in terms of the liberal Progressive Federal Party members supporting the Colored and Indian chambers?

[Stayman] That is correct, and I feel not only them, maybe the ones who would lend support to those houses from the House of Assembly, I also think of the very, very enlightened nationalists who are in the National Party to force the party in a real enlightened direction. We have many friends in the National Party, both English and Afrikaans, who have made it clear in no certain terms to me that they are in the National Party to see that the party moves in a more enlightened direction, a direction which will offer hope for all South Africa.

[Lewis] Considering your praise for the ruling National Party, Mr Stayman, you obviously must have inside information about Pretoria's sincerity. Do you think Mr P.W. Botha is sincere when he says that the white nation must adapt or die?

[Stayman] No. I must say that the only prime minister who has given me hope for a peaceful transition in South Africa is P.W. Botha. P.W. Botha has convinced me by his actions of our immediate past that he is a man of hope, that he is a man who can be trusted, and with him, shall I say, giving him the necessary support to move in that direction are people like Minister Chris Heunis, and Minister Pik Botha, for whom I have a very high regard.

[Lewis] What percentage poll are you expecting on elections?

[Stayman] On election day I expect a 40 percent percentage poll and I may dare say that of half of the votes cast on election day, 90 percent will be for the Labor Party.

[Lewis] And that is only 15 percent of the Colored population vote. Will you still claim this is a mandate?

[Stayman] No, I say that we must accept that there are people who will boycott. If you boycott, I say you are embarking on a strategy of self-denial. Your vote is your voice. [end recording]

Low Turnout 'Threat to Change'

MB211852 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, says a low percentage poll in the Colored and Indian elections will have a negative effect on the processes of constitutional change in South Africa. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation on the eve of the elections for the House of Representatives Mr Heunis said an effective boycott would not succeed in improving the attitudes of whites to constitutional change.

A rejection of the hand which the whites had extended to the Colored and Indian communities through the refendum would have quite the opposition effect.

Mr Heunis said Whites had indicated their preparedness for constitutional change but had also expressed an opinion on the maintenance of certain values, standards, and norms.

He said irrespective of the percentage poll, the new constitution would be implemented. He personally believed that the percentage poll would not directly and correctly express the views of the Colored and Indian communities because of intimidation, threats, acts of sabotage, and fear. Mr Heunis said the more South Africa succeeded in extending democracy in terms of the particular requirements of the country, the better were its chances of acceptability in Africa and the world.

Colored Election Issues Viewed

MB220709 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Seldom in South Africa's political history has an election been fought on such a straightforward issue as will be today's general election for the house of representatives. That is inherent partly in its nature being the first in the Colored community for parliament, and partly in the clashing interests of factions who have been trying to persuade voters to stay away from the polls.

The issue is political power. Overshadowing the whole election campaign has been the debate, all too often degenerating into intimidation by the boycotters, between the political leaders urging the people to make use of the power they have acquired in the new system and those promoting confrontation to further their own vaguely defined power objectives.

Such is the choice confronting the voter before he even considers where he should make his cross on the ballot paper. Which form of power does he espouse? The parliamentary channel and its democratic institutions for achieving the social and economic reforms in the country that political leaders have clearly stated to be their goals, or the course of protest and boycott orchestrated with violent undertones by a coalition of diverse interests with end goals that have yet to be openly spelt out. The first option is dismissed by the confrontationists as a sham. Their charge is refuted not only by an analysis of the new constitution but perhaps even more convincingly by the history of its introduction.

Two and a half years ago the ruling National Party split over the question of whether constitutional reform in the country should extend to power-sharing in a single parliament between the White, Colored, and Indian Communities. Nevertheless, the concept was adopted and the reformed constitution was approved in a referendum among White voters last November. In a nutshell, it offers the Colored and Indian communities for the first time full and democratic participation in the central government of the Republic. Power-sharing is now entrenched in the constitution, the most basic legal document of the state.

Against that concrete platform the boycotters offer the maelstrom of protest politics, erratic and arbitrary in its operation and unknown as to its destination. Black leaders who consulted none but their own people before accepting their present power platforms complain that they are being sold out because they have not now been consulted. Doctor Alan Boesak of the UDF, United Democratic Front, says he will be satisfied with nothing less than control over economic resources and means of production. Scarcely veiled threats of violence are heard from time to time.

What is one to conclude about the boycott coalition's objectives: black power of some kind in a state that not only control people's lives economically but is ready to use violence against all dissenters? One simply does not know. To vote today for a particular candidate and party is to choose consciously to influence the future political course of South Africa. To boycott is to choose to be the unconscious instrument of forces that have their own political agenda. Put differently, the Colored community has the opportunity its leaders had long fought for -- the opportunity to exercise real political power. Now it is up to the people to take advantage of it.

SACC DELEGATION MEETS MINISTER ON SCHOOL UNREST

MB211944 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] It has been confirmed in Pretoria that a delegation of the South African Council of Churches [SACC] has held a meeting with the minister of education and training, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, in an attempt to seek a solution to the unrest at black schools. A statement by the council said the meeting had been sought by the general secretary of the SACC, Bishop Desmond Tutu.

According to the statement, the minister acknowledged that areas in the present education system demanded serious attention and that he underlined the concerted efforts being made by his department to meet the grievances of pupils and to establish clear communication links with them.

The delegation said it welcomed the steps being taken by the government regarding a central educational council to consider uniform policies on educational standards, finance, and the appointment of teachers.

SWAZILAND

MSIBI COMMENTS ON DISCUSSIONS WITH RSA, ANC

MB211920 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Supreme Council of State member Dr George Msibi disclosed today that recent talks between a Swazi delegation and South African officials in Pretoria centered on the continuation of negotiations on border adjustments. Dr Msibi was giving a report on the talks at Lobamba this morning. Leading the delegation to those talks was Prince Khatshwa and other members were: Prince Mfanasibili; Mr Kuseni Hlophe; Minister Without Portfolio Mr Mhambi Mnisi; the Minister of Labor and Public Service Mr Mhlangano Matsebula; Mr Robert Mabila, the ombudsman; and the principal secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Zachariah Mkhonta.

[Begin video] As you are aware, there are regular meetings between the two governments to discuss matters of mutual interest. Similarly her majesty and her government felt that it was necessary this time that we exchange ideas on issues affecting our countries. However, top on the list was the question of the border adjustment. As you are aware certain events have taken place which have tended to highlight the different positions assumed by the Swazi Government and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

A commission was appointed to look into the question of border adjustment and to look into the question of the return of the Ingwavuma area and the return of the KaNgwane area to Swaziland.

This commission was eventually disbanded because the commission itself and the two governments were satisfied that there is no purpose that could be served by the commission, in view of the fact that there was no way that intimidation, victimization, and pressures could be brought upon the witnesses who appeared before the commission. However, since the disbanding of the commission, certain issues have arisen which are of considerable concern to the government and the people of this nation.

First in Ingwavuma, we kept on receiving reports in Swaziland that certain constructions were taking place in Ingwavuma, authorized by the KwaZulu government, on areas and on land that belongs to the people who have had to flee their country because of victimization and intimidation that has been carried out by the KwaZulu government, to an extent where the people who have had to come to Swaziland have threatened that they were faced with a situation where they had to take arms against the violation of their land rights and the violation of their fathers' land. We have recently seen an increase in the influx of the number of people who have come into Swaziland from Ingwavuma.

I would like at this juncture to correct the impression given by certain government officials that only two or three families have since come into Swaziland. This is not true at all. The information presented to us by competent authorities is that we have had more than 700 people who have recently fled into Swaziland from Ingwavuma because of the continuing activities by the KaNgwane [as heard] government against the people of Ingwavuma, KwaZulu, I beg your pardon, against the people of Ingwavuma. I, therefore became essential for her majesty to direct that government should have discussions with South Africa to review this situation, make the Government of South Africa aware of this, and I am pleased to report on behalf of the delegation that the South African Government has decided to take up this matter with the necessary and relevant authorities

The second event that caused considerable concern to the Swaziland Government and the people of this nation was the granting of the second stage of government to KaNgwane. Now I must explain that his majesty, the late king, approached and made very strong representations to the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the question of the granting of the second stage of government to KaNgwane. The king maintained and we continue to maintain that this is the granting of a dominion status to the people of KaNgwane, and this would make it difficult for the Swaziland Government to carry on its discussions and negotiations with the South African Government on this issue.

We are aware that there are people in KaNgwane who are keen to assume certain authority so as to frustrate the return of this land. We are aware that some of these people are not necessarily people who could be identified as Swazis. We are aware that these people do not necessarily command the respect and the following that they claim to command. We feel that therefore the granting of dominion status to KaNgwane would considerably hamper the peaceful, cordial, and smooth negotiations that had been going on.

I am pleased to report on behalf of the delegation that all these matters were discussed in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere. I am pleased to report that agreement has been reached that further meetings be held. I am pleased to report that the South African Government realizes and appreciates the position of the people of Swaziland on the issue of the return of our alienated land. However, it is the responsibility not only of the Government of Swaziland but of the entire nation to express beyond any shadow of doubt that the question of border adjustment and the question of the return of both these areas is of vital interest to the entire nation, and it may become necessary in future that we let the whole world know without any shadow of doubt that this issue is of very, very great concern to us. Thank you very much. [end video]

Dr Msibi also reported on the Lusaka talks last week between his delegation and the leadership of the ANC. The talks were held at the invitation of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, and at the end of the meeting both parties agreed to hold further talks on tensions between the ANC and the Swaziland Government.

[Begin Msibi video] [Words indistinct] of this year whereby members of the ANC cadres fired on our police and the Army, thereby creating a situation where Swaziland had to take steps to protect law and order and to protect the citizens of Swaziland. The second aspect of our discussion covered the resultant position from those actions and an attempt to find a solution, a permanent solution, to the situation.

But before we entered these discussions, we reviewed certain allegations that were made against Swaziland in the press, the first allegation being an allegation which appeared in the CITY PRESS: an article written by a gentleman called Qoboza, Ngcoboza, or whatever the name is, who alleged that he had met in Lusaka with Oliver Tambo, and he was informed of a plot involving the Swaziland Government and the South African authorities, whereby if Mr Tambo had come to Swaziland he would have either been assassinated or kidnapped and taken into South Africa. The Swaziland delegation wanted to know why the ANC made no attempt to refute that allegation until a long time thereafter when the editor of the OBSERVER visited Lusaka, and at that time Mr Tambo found it proper to refute the allegation.

The second issue that was discussed was the allegation against, again made in the press, whereby at the United Nations, at the ILO meeting in Lusaka, and at a meeting of UN agencies in Geneva, allegations were made by certain members of the ANC to the effect that Swaziland was returning ANC fighters to South Africa. The Swaziland delegation wanted to know why these issues were not refuted.

The third aspect of the allegation was an allegation to the effect that Swaziland police and prison authorities were carrying out a systematic torture against the ANC cadres who had been arrested and kept in detention. These issues were thoroughly discussed. It is difficult in such a short press conference to go into the details, but the Swaziland position was this that the ANC had to explain its position with regard to these allegations before discussions could take place.

Explanations were given by the ANC and the discussions went on to the second phase. The first situation or the first aspect that was realized by both delegations was that the differences between the ANC and the Swaziland Government had actually actuated because of lack of communications. The time offered to us was very short to enter into finding a solution. It was therefore agreed between the two parties that further discussions should be held, that proper communications should be established. [end video]